

Marie Payne was fatal victim of a persistent child molester

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Marie Payne, aged four, met her death in a forest glade one March afternoon last year. She was probably dead before anyone knew she was missing.

Colin Evans, jailed for at least 30 years yesterday for her murder, was a persistent sexual offender against children. He had 13 convictions.

A man convicted of assaulting his own daughter, Evans was to become a child minder. He was at liberty to kill Marie Payne when he should have been in prison. He remained free for 13 months after her death although he had links with the girl's home area.

Marie Payne vanished on March 11 last year. She was last seen playing near home in Gorsebrook Road, Dagenham, Essex.

There were several "sightings" of her but no concrete clues to whether she was alive or dead.

In October last year, seven months later, some of her clothes were discovered nine miles from her home in the centre of Epping Forest. Police were now dealing with a probable murder but there was still no body.

But on at 11.45 on the morning of May 6 this year a new suspect emerged.

In Rainham, Essex, a man wearing a straw-coloured wig and driving a yellow Avenger tried to persuade two girls aged seven and nine to go with him in his car.

At 1.45 pm at Ilford, a few miles further west, a man driving a yellow Avenger tried to tempt two girls aged three and five, into his car. Their father rescued them. The man fled but the father took a registration number: HJB 821 N.

Forty-five minutes later in Stepping the man walked up to a girl aged 6 playing outside a block of flats and tried to drag her into his car. Her screams

alerted neighbours and the man vanished.

Ilford police checked the registration and found a driver in Middlesex. His alibi was eventually confirmed.

In the meantime details of the attacks had been sent to all forces including Leith, near Edinburgh, where the teams investigating the murders of Caroline Hogg and Susan Maxwell had their headquarters.

One Leith officer, Detective Constable Baxter McPherson, noticed that witnesses sometimes transposed the last figures of registration numbers.

Playing with the number on his keyboard he found that HJB 812N was a yellow Avenger. It belonged to Evans, living in Reading, Berkshire. Evans had a list of convictions.

The Ilford police asked Reading police to hold Evans. As a matter of course they also told the Marie Payne incident room a few miles away what had happened.

A detective sergeant drove to Reading and started searching Evans's flat. Tucked inside the sleeve of a record on an old-fashioned radiogram were some negatives.

The detective took off the back of the radiogram and found 160 pictures of children. A series of nine seemed to be of a dead little girl who looked similar to Marie Payne.

Despite hours of questioning Evans refused to budge. Then Det. Superintendent David Little, leading the inquiry, tried talking to him alone and pondered aloud how sad it was

for Marie Payne's parents that their daughter might never be properly buried.

Evans suddenly replied: "You will never know what has been going through my mind since that day. When I woke up the next day I could have killed myself. Can't you take me outside and hang me?"

According to Evans on the day Marie Payne died he went to see his mother, who lived near the Payne family. Finding his mother was out he bought some food and sat in his car eating, when Marie came along with her dog.

The child was induced to enter the car and Evans drove to the forest. He took some pictures, but the child started to cry. Evans hit her with a piece of wood.

He stripped her and buried the body in a shallow ditch, hiding the clothes nearby. When he discovered a fault on the camera had ruined the pictures he drove back to Epping two days later.

While hundreds of volunteers were combing the forest three miles away Evans uncovered the body, photographed and mutilated it. He then hid it again.

The morning after his confession Evans took the police to the spot and uncovered the remains of Marie Payne, her skull split by a long crack.

Evans, born in Barking in 1932, was the subject of three psychiatric reports but is not deemed mad. He has been described as mentally ill. He has attributed his sexual drive to an incident when he was a boy.

A man whose intelligence is close to the top ten per cent in the country, Evans, complained to the police of days when his actions and desires were uncontrollable.

Asked what might have happened on May 6 he said: "To be absolutely honest I don't know what was in my mind".



An anxious moment for Joe Turi, a trick rider, during an exhibition round at the Olympia International Showjumping Championships at Olympia, west London, yesterday. (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Private health fees to rise

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Subscribers to private health insurance face further steep increases in premiums from January 1, well above the rate of inflation.

Attempts by the provident associations to control the increasing cost of private medicine have so far had only a limited impact. Hospital charges are continuing to rise to offset the costs of empty beds in the private sector.

British United Provident Association (BUPA), with over 70 per cent of the health insurance market, is raising subscriptions by between 7 and 15 per cent from January 1. Private Patients Plan (PPP) is

introducing increases averaging between 9 and 11 per cent, with a maximum increase of 15 per cent.

However, the associations now review their subscription rates twice a year, so annual increases are running at between 12 and 23 per cent a year at a time when inflation is about 5 per cent.

BUPA puts the subscription increase over the year for most of its subscribers at an average of 12 to 14 per cent. For a married man, aged 49, with a wife and two children, cover for most independent hospitals and health service teaching hospitals outside London will now cost

£487 a year and £748 in London, before discounts. The equivalent charges for broadly similar cover from PPP would be £479 and £765 a year, also before discounts.

The steepest BUPA increase in January is for London subscribers aged over 65. Their rates will rise 15 per cent to £1,292 for a married couple.

With two months' figures still to come for this year, BUPA estimates that market growth will be between 4 and 5 per cent and PPP puts the figure at between 3 and 4 per cent. That will take the total number of people holding private health insurance to about 4.7 million.

Seven years for teacher supplying drugs

A schoolteacher was jailed for seven years yesterday for supplying LSD which led to the death of a boy aged 16 who fell from a block of flats. The judge told Richard Catherwood: "You are a danger to young people."

The sentence was criticised as too light by the father of Lee Sawyer, the boy who died.

Mr Peter Sawyer said: "It is daft, it is silly. He will be out in five years and will be peddling death on the streets again."

He said the "poisonous seed" Catherwood had laid would still claim victims "when he is not there".

After the case at Inner London Crown Court Det Insp Graham Collins praised the "courage and guts" of six young men who saw one of their friends killed through drugs and had given evidence against Catherwood.

Judge Suzanne Norwood jailed Catherwood, aged 40, for seven years for supplying cannabis to a juvenile and for possessing cannabis with intent to supply. He was jailed for three years for supplying another youth with cannabis, the sentences to run concurrently.

Catherwood had admitted two charges of possessing drugs and one of supplying cannabis and was found guilty of four further drugs charges and cleared of another three, one on the direction of the judge.

Judge Norwood accepted that Catherwood did not sell drugs to his pupils, but it was still an exceptionally grave offence because he sold drugs to some schoolchildren and to people who got to know him because he was a teacher.

The court heard that young people, including schoolchildren, flocked to Catherwood's home in Melbourne Grove, east Dulwich, south London.

He had made five previous court appearances on charges.

In 1979, he joined Inner London Education Authority as a supply teacher and had worked at ten schools since 1982. He had not been required to declare his previous convictions in 1979, but since 1981 new teaching applicants had been obliged to do so.

Van driver kidnapped in £30,000 bullion raid

About £30,000 worth of precious metals was stolen during a bullion van hijacking in Bristol yesterday in which the driver was kidnapped and dumped 100 miles away.

The driver aged 40, was taking the van out of the yard of the bullion delivery firm, of Scadylan, in Bristol, when two men in another vehicle forced him to stop.

The man was then bound and blindfolded and driven to the Heston service station on the M4 near Heathrow where he was found unhurt more than four hours after the hijacking. The van was found without its cargo.

Police could not say whether any gold had been on board, but said silver was among the precious metals stolen.

Police led by Det Chief Supt Alan Elliott of Avon police appealed for information.

Two policemen serving as coroner's officers at Battersea, south London were fined at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for taking bribes from undertakers for recommending them to remove a body.

Anthony Kirkham, aged 50, of Dukes Avenue, New Malden, south London, was fined £250 and ordered to pay £250 legal costs.

John Hale, aged 51, of Grandison Road, Worcester Park, south London, was fined £150, with £500 costs. A third coroner's officer, Alan Lover, aged 46, of Montagu Gardens, Wallington, who served at Croydon coroner's court, was cleared of similar charges.

An RAF Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft has flown 16,000 miles to the Falklands and back in a record time of 38½ hours. The flight from Kinloss was broken by a stop at Ascension Island.

Mike Nolan, the Bucks Fizz singer, yesterday regained consciousness and whispered to a friend, Jimmy O'Reilly: "I'm all right". Newcastle General Hospital has taken Mr Nolan off the critical list.

W. H. Smith, which has announced that it will no longer defy Sunday trading laws, was fined £15 yesterday by magistrates in London for selling a music cassette at its Kensington High Street branch on Sunday, November 18.

The National Trust is to restore Wordsworth House, the Georgian birthplace of William Wordsworth in Cockermouth, Cumbria, at a cost of £10,000 between now and February.

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'Disgusting' record of crimes

Colin Evans was first convicted when he was 27 years old and a bus driver in east London.

At the Central Criminal Court in 1966 he was fined £10 on each of three counts of assaulting children after taking them to a forested area near his Barking home.

Four years later, now a married man with a daughter, he was sentenced to ten years by Essex Quarter Sessions for six offences against children. One of the victims was his own child. His marriage collapsed.

He received drug treatment to change his sex drive, but it was abandoned because of side effects. He was released in 1975.

In 1978 Evans was sent to prison for three years for assaulting a nine-year-old spastic girl. Two other cases were taken into account.

In 1980, nine months after his release he was back before Reading Crown Court, accused of indecent assault on a girl of 12.

Judge Hilliard gave him six months and told him he had a "disgusting" record, but the judge could consider only the case before him.

Late last year Reading magistrates fined him £200 for writing to the parents of children he had assaulted, demanding access to the children.

The detectives investigating the death of Marie Payne knew nothing of Evans.

In 1967, a year after Evans's first offence near the Paynes' area, a new collating system for sexual offenders was started. Under the system the force which arrests the offender keeps a card on him or her and if the offender moves it passes on details to the police in the area where the offender lives.

When Evans was convicted in Essex in 1970 a record was kept and when he settled in Reading the local police force knew about him. He was not known as an offender in London because he had missed the system by a year.

He was arrested by Thames Valley police six weeks after the disappearance of Marie Payne for an offence against a girl

Babysitter's sinister secret

The probation service in Berkshire supervised Evans after he was released on licence in 1975 and in 1980 he again received help.

He was in touch with a probation officer, Mr Peter Southerton, who was also deputy chairman of the Reading society of the Rev. the Christian charity. He was given the job of organising work for members.

Toc H worked with the social services department and early in 1982 Evans became the child minder for a family of three children over a period of two months. In June 1982 he was arrested and charged with assaulting two of them. During the hearing the court was told the family did not know of Evans's record.

A senior source at Berkshire County Council said that the social services had never been told of Evans's background. The social worker who introduced him as a babysitter had been mistaken, assuming he was himself a babysitter instead of the man who organized the service.

According to the Probation Service Toc H was not told of Evans's background either.

One senior official of the local probation service said that there had been a "messy tangle of overlapping responsibilities". The issue of Evans involved "the whole area of how the community deals with dangerous people". A probation officer had been disciplined.

Evans was acquitted of the assaults in November 1982, four months before Marie Payne was killed.

In a statement yesterday Berkshire County Council said that its social services department had asked Toc H for help with various jobs and said that very prompt action had been taken when concern was raised over Evans's activities. The council said that in introducing Evans to two families as a babysitter a social worker had broken council policy.

The principal social worker wrote to Evans spelling out policy that volunteers offering to help families with children known to the department had to have references cleared by the police.

A social worker had broken this policy because Evans had been introduced as person of status "within a very reputable organization".

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Best goes to jail after judge rejects appeal

George Best, the former footballer international, failed yesterday in his appeal against a three-month jail sentence for drink-driving and assaulting a policeman.

After Judge Butler, QC, rejected the appeal at Southwark Crown Court Best was taken into custody.

Best claimed that the sentence passed by the Bow Street magistrate was too severe.

His counsel, Mr Philip Havers told the judge Best was "extremely remorseful" and appeared to have learnt his lesson.

Judge Butler said Best drove in central London with more than three times the permitted level of alcohol. He had a previous similar conviction. He added: "It must be understood that those who assault police officers must expect an immediate custodial sentence."

Best claimed that the sentence passed by the Bow Street magistrate was too severe.

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Jailing prostitutes 'the only deterrent'

The abolition of imprisonment for soliciting has removed the only effective deterrent to the offence, the Prosecuting Solicitors' Society of England and Wales said yesterday.

Warsaw tries to placate party diehards with tough line on Solidarity

The Polish authorities have signalled that they will maintain a hardline attitude towards the Solidarity opposition despite Washington's decision to lift one of its economic sanctions against the Jaruzelski Government.

The large display of police force and the breaking up of a demonstration in Gdansk on Sunday were apparently authorized by the provincial Governor, General Mieczyslaw Cygan, clearly with the approval of Warsaw.

Water cannon was used in sub-zero temperatures, flames cracked through the sky and the Zomo riot police were not shy of using batons.

In return, the Solidarity demonstrators, wanting to lay flowers at a monument to commemorate workers shot down 14 years ago, shouted and threw stones. At least one important Solidarity figure, Mr Andrzej Gwiazda, was still in custody yesterday, the charge uncertain.

Friends of the former deputy chairman of Solidarity said that

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

he was being put before a magistrate's court in Gdansk and could receive a two-month jail term if the authorities accused him of organizing Sunday's demonstration.

Some diplomats here argue that the action against the Solidarity protesters was symbolic, sending a message to the hardliners in the Communist Party's Central Committee which is due to meet on Friday. The session will discuss the economy but it is also expected to hear a report on party control of the security services, a report that was commissioned after the murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko by secret policemen.

It is an unwritten rule in Polish Communist Party politics that any open criticism of the police must be accompanied by a sign that the Government is not going soft on "the enemies of socialism."

Whether symbolic or not, the tough response to what was intended to be a mild demonstration, has confused the process of lifting sanctions. In a leak over the weekend, the Reagan Administration had let

it be known that it was withdrawing its opposition to Polish membership of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). That was intended as a reward for the freeing of the two most important remaining political prisoners, Mr Bogdan Lis and Mr Piotr Mierzwinski, both accused of treason. Now much depends on whether the Polish authorities will revoke the amnesty granted to Mr Gwiazda, creating yet another important political prisoner.

Other demonstrations or rallies were treated mildly or even ignored by the authorities. Near the Wojek colliery in Silesia - where nine miners were killed by police after the imposition of martial law exactly three years ago yesterday - some leading Solidarity activists laid flowers at a plaque reading: "To the miners for national freedom, social justice and at their work places."

In Lodz, a plaque was unveiled in a church to the memory of Father Popieluszko but again without the interference of the authorities.

Sweeping a path for Thatcher



Chinese soldiers attacking the snow with brooms yesterday outside the Great Hall of the People in Peking, in preparation for the visit of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who arrives this evening to sign the Sino-British agreement on Hong Kong.

When she flies in, the Prime Minister will find a Peking blanketed in two to three inches of snow and swept by cold winds from Siberia. Her champagne reception will be in marked contrast with the frosty atmosphere when she launched the

talks on Hong Kong's future. She slipped and fell on the steps of the Great Hall after an icy meeting with the Chinese leader Mr Deng Xiaoping, who has seen it as his personal mission to recover Hong Kong from Britain.

People of Bhopal begin return home

Delhi - People began drifting back to the gas disaster city of Bhopal yesterday as the operation to neutralize the remaining stock of deadly methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas continued successfully (Trevor Fishlock writes).

By last night, eight of the 15 tonnes of gas, stored in an underground tank in liquid form, had been rendered inert by pesticide. Helicopters circled over the Union Carbide plant spraying water as a safety measure.

The districts around the plant were still deserted and many shops and houses elsewhere in the city stayed locked. Most of the customers at the tea and tobacco stores that remained open in the older section of the city were police and paramilitary troops who were out in force to prevent theft and looting.

The disaster, which killed more than 2,000 people and left 100,000 suffering the effects of exposure to MIC, has led to the postponement of the parliamentary election in Bhopal.

Heart man gets out of bed

Louisville (AFP) - William Schroeder, the recent recipient of an artificial heart, got out of bed for the first time since suffering a stroke four days ago, but was in a worrisome condition, the director of the Humana Heart Institute in this Kentucky city said.

Dr Allan Lansing said that Mr Schroeder sat in a chair for about an hour and talked with members of his family, but he showed signs of deep apathy. "He doesn't seem to be very interested in talking."

Human wall halts dam

Vienna (Reuters) - Thousands of demonstrators, forming a human wall, prevented site clearance work for a hydro-electric power plant near Hainburg only hours after the work had started.

"Demonstrators have made a living wall around the clearing site and work had to stop. Otherwise many people would have been injured," he said, adding that police were told not to use force.

Rebel Vietnam archbishop dies

Rome (AP) - Pierre Martin Ngo-Dinh Thuc, the excommunicated former Archbishop of Hue, in Vietnam, and brother of the late South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem, has died in the United States.

The Vatican, announcing his death, also said that the Pope had pardoned Ngo, aged 87, after the former archbishop wrote a letter to him on July 11 "retracting all my previous errors."

Mintoff hailed

Moscow (Reuters) - The Maltese Prime Minister, Mr Dom Mintoff, was given a red-carpet welcome when he arrived here for a visit. The Soviet Prime Minister Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko greeted him at the airport.

Lightning toll

Harare (AFP) - After five more deaths from lightning, the government-controlled Harare Herald labelled the toll a "national scandal" and demanded a public awareness campaign on safety procedures. This year's storm season deaths total 60.

Tokyo quake

Tokyo (AP) - An earthquake measuring three on the Japanese scale of seven hit Tokyo last night but there were no reports of damage. Buildings were jolted sharply and rocked for about 30 seconds.

Berlin blaze

Berlin (AP) - A yuletide wreath that caught fire is being blamed for a blaze in an East Berlin apartment that killed two and injured eight. It was of a type popular in Germany which has four mounted candles.

Algeria's guest

Algiers (AFP) - President Erich Honecker of East Germany arrived for an official three-day visit to Algeria. It will include talks with President Chadli Benjedid.

Quins blow

Berlin (AP) - Three boys and two girls were born to a West Berlin woman over the weekend, but two, a boy and a girl, died later. Their weights ranged from 1lb 14oz to 2lb 3oz.

Bomb haul

Copenhagen (AFP) - Danish fishermen recently hauled in Second World War mustard gas bombs while trawling in the Baltic near the island of Bornholm.

Cardin burgled

Paris (Reuters) - Burglars who broke into the Paris home of the courtier, Pierre Cardin, got away with about £15,000.

Scrap star wars, say scientists

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Prospects for controlling nuclear weapons arising from the Shultz-Gromyko talks here next month will be scuffed if the United States pursues its "Star Wars" project beyond the present stage of basic research.

This was the unanimous view at a two-day meeting here of the Pugwash organization, attended by scientists, public and military figures from 18 countries, to assess the new opportunity for nuclear arms control.

"There must be no further weaponization of space," the group said.

Professor John Holdren of the University of California, Berkeley, who is president of the Federation of American Scientists, said: "To press on with the star wars project would rip the lid of constraints off the whole spectrum of nuclear weapons. The majority of scientists, including those engaged in aero-space research and development, say in private that there is essentially no hope this technology will develop in any time scale worth thinking about into actual defence of populations against nuclear attacks."

● MOSCOW: Mr Yury Zhukov, a senior Soviet commentator, yesterday questioned whether the US was going into the forthcoming Geneva arms talks with sincere intentions (Reuters reports).

Writing in the Communist Party daily Pravda, Mr Zhukov said the discussions due to take place next month offered Washington a chance to prove its peaceful intentions with concrete actions. But he cited recent statements by senior US officials as evidence that the Reagan Administration was bent on pursuing its former course "to achieve military superiority at any price in order to rule the planet."

● VIENNA: A Soviet diplomat here yesterday rebutted American claims that Moscow has built up nuclear weapons superiority (Reuters reports).

The US Administration goes to all lengths to prove that the US is lagging behind the Soviet Union in this area. It is not correct, "Mr Oleg Khlestov, Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna, told a news conference.

EEC pullout wrangles give Greenland the blues

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Greenland is finding it as difficult to leave the EEC as Spain and Portugal are finding it to join. That, at least, was clear in Brussels yesterday when foreign ministers from the Community locked in argument on the two issues.

Greenland is due to serve its existing links with the Community from the start of next year. Spain and Portugal still hope to join by the start of 1986. But the legal and financial problems loom large.

In order for Greenland to leave, it is necessary for every one of the 10 national parliaments to ratify its departure. That cannot now happen since not all countries will have passed the necessary legislation by the new year. Britain is one of the few so far to have done so.

In consequence a legal form

Bank's safe deposit - in the bin

Nice (AFP) - Two bank officials, worried about a holdup, used different hiding places each day to protect at least part of the bank's cash. One day, they used a wastepaper basket to hide 100,000 francs (\$8,000) which was then burnt in an incinerator.

A Nice Labour Relations court was told that recently the bank's books disclosed a loss of 100,000 francs. The deputy manager remembered that this was the exact amount he decided should be hidden in a wastepaper basket.

The head office of the bank, which has not been named, demoted the deputy manager and penalized the cashier. Both appealed.

The said they were merely obeying a head office circular to use "discreet and inaccessible hiding places" to foil and holdup.

The court will give a decision on their appeal later.

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Israel team to press for extra aid

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A high-level delegation flew to Washington yesterday to press Israel's case for a big increase in American financial aid at the first meeting of the Israel-US Economic Development Group this week.

According to Israeli sources, the team, led by Mr Emmanuel Sharon, director-general of the Finance Ministry, will be seeking an extra \$750 million (\$625 million) in emergency economic aid for 1985, in addition to the \$2.6 billion already promised as military aid.

It will also be seeking an increase in total financial assistance to more than \$4 billion for 1986.

Despite claims in Jerusalem of severe financial straits if the demands are not met, the Reagan Administration is thought unlikely to agree to such huge increases. There has been disappointment in Washington that the austerity measures so far carried out by Israel's Government of national unity have not been more extensive.

A last-minute decision was taken to include three leading economists in the Israeli delegation. Their job will be to explain the dire economic conditions to the Americans.

The meeting comes at a bad time for Israel as it coincides with an attempt by President Reagan to find ways of reducing the large deficit in the American budget to be presented to Congress next month.

Some Israeli sources are afraid that US plans to freeze spending abroad the board, including foreign aid, may now be under consideration in Washington.

Split Peronists face destruction

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

A leadership struggle in its national congress has split Argentina's Peronist Party down the middle and raised the spectre of dissolution for the once-dominant movement created by General Juan Peron.

The "official" faction of the Peronist National Congress, the party's governing body, went ahead with the election of new party authorities on Sunday night, despite a walkout by more than half the delegates on Saturday.

The dissident delegates, who comprise most of the Peronist

Reagan to appeal for more Contras funds

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

After the embarrassing fiasco of the non-existent MIG fighters in Nicaragua, the Reagan Administration is divided and confused about the direction of its psychological war against the Sandinista Government.

President Reagan said in an interview published yesterday that Congress had been irresponsible to cut off US aid to the Nicaraguan guerrillas. He told *Human Events*, a conservative weekly, that he planned to make a television broadcast to appeal for the resumption of the funds. The White House said last night that no arrangements for a broadcast had yet been made.

The drama of the MIG fighters, which was allowed to unfold with heightened expectations on each night's television news last month, was a serious propaganda disaster. The freighter, *Baharian*, sailed home to the Black Sea without depositing a single Russian MIG.

The bungled episode demonstrated the lack of agreement on how to discredit and undermine the Sandinistas. Several ideas are being considered but the option of a full invasion is not on the table, despite all the Administration's hints and innuendoes to the contrary. The strategy, simply, is to keep up the pressure by publicly holding out the possibility of military intervention.

There are contradictory strands to the handling of the Nicaragua question. While Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, has visited Managua and talked of America's commitment to a peaceful solution, the Administration has been happily encouraging the increasing flow of private funds to anti-Sandinista rebels operating across the border.

President Reagan has expressed sympathy for the private effort to help the rebels who no longer receive public aid. He said he would be inclined not to want to interfere with them. At the same time, he has voiced support for the peace process of the Contadora nations - Panama, Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico.

The last session was last week and it adjourned without any apparent substantive progress. Another session is planned.

Two Lebanon villages put under curfew

Jerusalem - Israeli security forces yesterday imposed curfews on two Shia Muslim villages in occupied southern Lebanon after the killing of a 19-year-old Israeli soldier in the region on Sunday night (Christopher Walker writes).

The new clampdown follows last week's action in seven villages in which, according to United Nations sources, a total of five Lebanese civilians died.

Yesterday's operation coincided with the opening of the tenth session of the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal talks in the southern Lebanese village of Naqura. The Lebanese delegation complained strongly about last week's Israeli action in which more than 100 people were detained.

Tel Aviv bus in rush-hour grenade attack

Jerusalem - Three people were injured in Tel Aviv during last night's rush hour when a hand grenade was thrown over a wall at a bus near the central market (Christopher Walker writes).

The injured were taken to hospital, and first reports on Israel radio said their wounds were slight. A huge police operation was launched in the area and streets were sealed off. Police sources said it was assumed that the attack was carried out by "terrorists".

In recent months, buses have become a popular target for attacks by Arab and Jewish extremists both in Israel itself and in the occupied territories. There were fears that last night's attack might provoke further retaliation.

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Draw after 19 moves in Moscow

Moscow (AFP) - Gary Kasparov kept what seems destined to be the longest world chess championship in history running when he drew the 33rd game with Anatoly Karpov, the title-holder here yesterday. His offer of a draw on move 30 was accepted by the champion.

The only world championship match that continued for more games than the one under way, here was in 1927, when Aleksandr Alekhin and Jose Raoul Capablanca of Cuba battled for 34 games in Buenos Aires. That Marx is due to be equalled tomorrow, when the Karpov-Kasparov match is to resume, with the world championship leading 5-1.

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The sub-continent prepares to vote

Gandhi juggernaut rolls to victory as electors embrace Nehru dynasty

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi

The dynamics of Indian politics and history swing to the advantage of Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He has been dealt all the electoral trumps and his Congress Party juggernaut is rolling to victory in the world's largest election. Next week, Indian voters will place their hopes for their country into the hands of this politically unseasoned young man.

His inexperience, as it happens, is to his benefit. He is a political unknown, an untried canvas, and as such he appears to be all things to all men. He arrives with a minimum of baggage and debts and people find this exciting. He seems to offer a real prospect of change. Indians hope that their national story is at a genuine turning point.

Had Mrs Gandhi been running in this election she would have had a struggle on her hands. She would have had to marshal all her shrewdness and her tigerish fighting ability and her unsurpassed knowledge of the labyrinth of Indian politics, to counter her own unpopularity among a considerable part of the population.

She would have been fighting that desire for change that is now focussed on her son. His newness and naivety are among the qualities that seem to make him the most likely agent for reform.

At the same time, as well as being the beneficiary of this reaction, he will do well from being his mother's son. As a latter-day empress, the only all-India figure, long term leader, and shaper and controller of her

eponymous Indira Congress Party, she had strong support among large sections of the population, particularly the poor.

The party is exploiting this popularity to the full as it runs a campaign with saturation coverage of posters, badges and knick-knacks. Mrs Gandhi's smiling image is everywhere. Her words are quoted constantly. Her son invokes her

Opposition leader survives crash

Delhi (Reuters) - India's main opposition leader, Mr Charan Singh, aged 82, the former Prime Minister, escaped unhurt when his four-seater plane crash-landed yesterday. A spokesman for his Dalit Mandor Kisan party said that the aircraft, chartered by the party to campaign for next week's national elections, landed on its belly at Banaras airport in northern Uttar Pradesh after its front wheel collapsed. No one was injured.

name ceaselessly as he criss-crosses the country, addressing large rallies. There are twice as many posters showing Mrs Gandhi as there are showing her son.

As a Nehru, bearing a great name, Mr Gandhi represents the remarkable line of continuity in modern Indian history. The idea of a dynasty has it critics, but many Indians find comfort and stability in the

prospect of another Nehru managing the country.

In any case there was no credible alternative to Mr. Gandhi when his mother was murdered. That was part of her legacy, and also, it can be argued, her disservice, to Indian democracy.

Always insecure, always determined that power should be held firmly at the centre, she accrued power to herself, sought always to make herself unchallengeable, and cut down any regional chief or other political figure who might have challenged her. She would have argued that India needed strong leadership at the centre. But her failure to encourage the growth of political talent weakened the democratic fabric of the mighty Congress Party.

Only her son had her complete trust. His transition from the life of agreeable obscurity he once led, to the leadership of this huge country, was inevitable. There is no one in the party who is strong enough to attract the support that would make him an alternative to Mr Gandhi. The Nehrus have always been able to command much loyalty.

There are other factors helping Mr Gandhi in this election. There is a Hindu backlash against the Sikh terrorism that came to a head this year, culminating in the Army assault on the Sikh's Golden Temple in Amritsar and the vengeance of the extremists on Mrs Gandhi.

Leading article, page 13

Zia courts female hearts and minds

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, yesterday completed his campaign for a referendum, mandating to continue as President for a fresh five-year term.

He has made a special effort to win women's votes, assuring them that he was not so orthodox that he would want half the nation locked within four walls just because they happened to be female.

During his mass-contact campaign, as he has called his whirlwind tour of the country, General Zia appealed to popular religious sentiments for endorsement of his Islamization programme so that it could be firmly established in the next five years.

He contrasted his character and rule with that of his predecessor, the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, whom he overthrew as Prime Minister in July 1977

in a bloodless coup after a huge Islamic movement arose against Bhutto's Government.

General Zia's need to win women's votes in tomorrow's referendum became crucial in the face of antagonism among emancipated, educated women towards his orthodox Islamic policies and alignment with fundamentalists, such as the Jamaat-i-Islam. Women constitute 45 per cent of the electorate of about 36 million.

President Zia assured women that he recognized their vital role in society. There could be no forward movement if there was just one wheel in a cart, he told them. They responded with cheers and loud slogans of support.

Although public demonstrations are banned under martial law, his appearances in cities and towns drew large crowds in many parts of the

North-west Frontier province and the Punjab, according to television coverage.

In Sind the people seemed subdued, possibly because the opposition has a stronghold in that province. However, opposition to the regime or the referendum is forbidden under various special orders and ordinances.

Meanwhile, the chief election commissioner, Mr Justice S A Nusrat, told a press conference here yesterday that he would announce the results of the referendum by next Saturday. No partial or regional results would be permitted.

Mr Justice Nusrat, a Supreme Court judge, took pains to assure the journalists that ballot speeches and fairness in counting would be fully protected, although most referendum arrangements would be carried out by officials at district level.



Another case solved: Georges Simenon, aged 81, creator of Inspector Maigret, before leaving hospital in Lusanne yesterday, 10 days after surgery to remove a benign brain tumour. His surgeon said he was now perfectly well.

Chernenko pledges aid to Addis

From Moscow (Reuters)

President Konstantin Chernenko praised Ethiopia's famine relief efforts at a meeting yesterday with the Ethiopian leader, Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, and pledged continued Soviet aid for the drought-stricken country.

Colonel Mengistu, who is the Kremlin's closest African ally, is visiting Moscow on an unannounced trip that diplomats said appeared to be aimed at winning a promise of increased Soviet assistance.

Reporting the meeting, Tass news agency said Mr Chernenko praised "the Ethiopian Government's resolute actions, 'Chernenko pointed out that the Soviet people take to heart the ordeal that has befallen the population of Ethiopia as a result of the protracted drought and strive to render necessary help and support as far as possible'."

While Western governments and organizations began supplying heavy emergency relief in September, the Soviet Union moved relatively late, announcing a shipment of lorries, aircraft, and some foodstuffs in late October.

Diplomats said Ethiopian officials have indicated they were not fully satisfied with the extent of relief aid from the Soviet Union, which provides large-scale military support to Addis Ababa's Marxist Government.

Greece sees Turks as main menace

From Mario Mediano, Athens

The Greek Government took one more step away from the Nato alliance yesterday when it announced its intention of redeploying its armed forces under a new defence doctrine that assumes the threat to the country's security to come not from the Soviet block, but from Turkey.

A government spokesman confirmed a Press report that Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, speaking at a national conference of cadres of the Socialist Party, had said the doctrine would be ratified early next month by the policy-making Government Council for Foreign Affairs and Defence.

The official text of the Prime Minister's speech omitted this passage, and the spokesman refused to elaborate. But the published version of what the Prime Minister disclosed indicated that as a result of the new doctrine there would be "a reorganization of the country's defences and redeployment of its armed forces compatible with the new concept" - that is, that "there is no military threat from the north but from the east."

Ever since the invasion of Cyprus in 1974, Greece has been obsessed by what it regards as a Turkish military threat in

the Aegean. This has led to the stationing of troops in the Greek islands in the eastern Aegean, close to the Anatolian coast.

Turkey has been objecting to the militarization of these islands, and when Greece assigned its military forces stationed in Lemnos island to Nato for 1985, Turkey blocked Nato's acquiescence, with the result that no Greek forces will be committed to the alliance after December 31.

The Greek Government has since informed Nato that until this situation is cleared up it will boycott all joint manoeuvres of the alliance.

The timing of the Greek move, however, is puzzling. Prospects of a Cyprus settlement increased expectations that a Greek-Turkish dialogue could be resumed shortly afterwards. Mr Papandreu, however, told his cadres that on the contrary he expected greater friction in the Aegean.

Last week Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, extended once again his "olive branch" to Greece and Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, offered to mediate for a Papandreu-Ozal meeting. Both were turned down by Athens.

Japanese families sue airline

From David Watts Tokyo

Japanese relatives of victims of the Korean Airlines tragedy yesterday started civil action against the company claiming 914 million yen (£5 million) damages.

Twenty-eight Japanese were killed when Korean Airlines flight 007 was shot down by a Soviet fighter on September 1, 1983, killing all 269 people on board.

Relatives of the victims have been trying ever since to reach an agreement on compensation with the airline but Korean Airlines had consistently refused to improve its offer of 20 million yen to each victim's family, according to Mr Ken-ji Nakazawa, the leader of the group of families.

Discussions with the airline broke off last May when it became clear to the families that their only remaining option was legal action. They decided that one group of the families should seek redress through Japanese courts and another group in the United States. The American action is expected to begin next year and to include not only Korean Airlines (now renamed Korean Air), but Boeing, the aircraft manufacturer, and the makers of the airline's navigational equipment, Litton Industries.

Yesterday's claim by the families of seven victims is based on the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) report of the incident and says that the Boeing 747 intruded into Soviet airspace well north of its proper flightpath either on purpose or through the crew's negligence. Either way, the claimants say, the airline should pay them damages. Korean Air admits no liability.

Extracts from the police request, which was written in Afrikaans and marked *Uiters Geheim* (Top Secret), subsequently appeared in the *Rand Daily Mail* and other newspapers. The police claimed that Miss Lister was using her mail box to liaise with leading members of Swapo (the South West Africa People's Organization), as well as an exile wing which had been waging a desultory guerrilla war since 1966 against South Africa's occupation of Namibia.

It is understood that Miss Lister faces charges under the Post Office Act of illegally opening mail addressed to someone else and, under the Official Secrets Act, of publishing a confidential document.

Verdict on Vietnam 21 today

Ho Chi Minh City (Reuters)

The prosecution at the trial of 21 dissidents accused of plotting to overthrow the Vietnam Government yesterday said they were guilty beyond a shadow of doubt.

The chief prosecutor, Mr Tran Le, made the claim in summing up before the Supreme Court, which is to deliver its verdict today.

He said the evidence was conclusive that the accused, many of them military men who served in the former South Vietnamese Army, plotted to overthrow the Government with the support of China and Thailand and the connivance of the United States.

The full force of the law should be brought to bear against them, he said, many of whom admitted their guilt and asked for leniency.

Under Vietnamese law the maximum penalty for treason and espionage is death by firing squad. One defendant, Mr Tran Van Phung, asked to be executed.

The court-appointed defence lawyer, Mr Trieu Quoc Maith, raised laughter in the courtroom when he said it was difficult to defend the accused because of the conclusive evidence against them.

The gang, which calls itself "The 21 faced mystery man", said in the letter that it had taken one million yen (£3,300) from a company in the Kobe area a week ago.

The departments have since been placed under a state of emergency and there have been constant reports of torture, as security forces have sought members of the guerrilla organization *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path). The bodies of teenagers stripped naked and showing signs of torture have been found in Ayacucho province. (There is also evidence that *Sendero Luminoso* has executed young people.)

The rebels have recruited some students from Ayacucho secondary schools, a fact used by the military to justify widespread arrests.

Observers fear that they may be in the custody of the Ayacucho Political Military Command and could be subject to torture and extra-judicial execution. Yuri Alejandro is believed to have been tortured at Huanta police station.

Scores of teenagers are known to have been detained by hooded members of the security forces and "disappeared", either indefinitely or for varying lengths of time in the provinces of the highland departments since December, 1982, when the Military Political Command, headed by

Chances for UK in Taiwan

From cheap replicas to high-tech

Taiwan, or the Republic of China, publicly refuses to accept that Hong Kong, the conduit through which so much of its trade with the rest of the world pours will in 1997 become part of Communist China. In this second report on Taiwan's attitude to the agreement Mrs Thatcher will sign tomorrow, Charles Wilson outlines the dangers to Taiwan's economy and what the Government in Taipei is doing about them.

Intellectuals and politicians in Taiwan share the same belief - about the relationship with Peking - that the civil war which seemed in the West to be lost when Chiang Kai-shek fled with two million of his followers to Formosa in 1949 is still going on.

Although the shooting has long since stopped, the economic war is hotter than ever and the difference in size and population only leads a David and Goliath quality to the battle. Taiwan people are convinced that their own economic success and skill will be the alibi which will win the fight for the minds of the people of the mainland.

"We are like Avis... we have to try harder," says Dr Yu-Ming Shiao, chairman of the Institute of International Relations, the Government's think-tank.

"The Peking Government is getting very anxious because we have become not a military threat but an economic ideological and a psychological threat. We are a huge embarrassment for them because we have a vastly superior system with a standard of living that people can't even dream about."

"The Communists know they cannot use military force. We spend 40 per cent of our GNP on defence and have a million troops. Although they might win in the end, it would be at terrible cost. The people on the mainland would not stand for such a war with their own ethnic people. So we believe that is the current situation they will not attack."

From across the narrow Taiwan Strait, Deng Xiaoping offers alluring promises if only Taiwan will acknowledge Peking control - political autonomy, the retention of the freebooting capitalist economy and the huge army. Now he holds up the Hong Kong deal as proof that China and Taiwan will be one great and enormously powerful nation.

Already, many Taiwan goods flood on to the mainland by Hong Kong's back door and Westerners puzzle over Taiwan's refusal to engage in direct trade to boost its exports even higher and to let business begin to erode the distrust on both sides.

"We have to be very cautious," says Dr Shiao. "Some businessmen would like to conclude."

Some businessmen here in Taiwan have to get a visa from Hong Kong to go to Britain. It takes up to six weeks; and there is a stipulated formality of depositing a guarantee of £2,500 here in Taipei.

"We need machine tools, chemical products and some raw materials. We can take high tech products, computers, engineering goods and transport equipment."

"Currently, 40 per cent of our imports from the UK come via Hong Kong and agents there take between 1 and 3 per cent of your turnover. We would like you to come direct."

Concluded

High-profile defence: A Taiwanese officer looks across the 1,000 yards from Quemoy Island to Communist China. Taiwan spends 40 per cent of its GNP on defence.

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Windhoek trial of BBC journalist

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

A Namibian journalist, Miss Gwen Lister, is to appear briefly in court in Windhoek, the Namibian capital, today in connection with charges under the Official Secrets Act and the Post Office Act.

Miss Lister, who is a freelance contributor to the BBC, was arrested last Friday and released on Sunday night after depositing 500 rand (£200) in bail and surrendering her passport.

Her case, which has attracted international interest, arose out of a bungled attempt by the police to arrange for the interception of her mail. A request to this effect from the police to the Postmaster-General in Namibia was inadvertently sent to Miss Lister's own post box.

Extracts from the police request, which was written in Afrikaans and marked *Uiters Geheim* (Top Secret), subsequently appeared in the *Rand Daily Mail* and other newspapers. The police claimed that Miss Lister was using her mail box to liaise with leading members of Swapo (the South West Africa People's Organization), as well as an exile wing which had been waging a desultory guerrilla war since 1966 against South Africa's occupation of Namibia.

It is understood that Miss Lister faces charges under the Post Office Act of illegally opening mail addressed to someone else and, under the Official Secrets Act, of publishing a confidential document.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Peru: The Ayacucho teenagers

By Caroline Moorhead

Four teenage boys, Henry Luis Medina Quispe, aged 16, Oswaldo Cardenas Quispe, aged 15, Yuri Alejandro Simbrón, aged 14, and José Rudy Jaime Peralta, aged 16, are all reported to have

"disappeared" after being detained by the Army in Ayacucho, a remote highland region of Peru.

Observers fear that they may be in the custody of the Ayacucho Political Military Command and could be subject to torture and extra-judicial execution. Yuri Alejandro is believed to have been tortured at Huanta police station.

Scores of teenagers are known to have been detained by hooded members of the security forces and "disappeared", either indefinitely or for varying lengths of time in the provinces of the highland departments since December, 1982, when the Military Political Command, headed by

an army general, was established to administer the area.

The departments have since been placed under a state of emergency and there have been constant reports of torture, as security forces have sought members of the guerrilla organization *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path). The bodies of teenagers stripped naked and showing signs of torture have been found in Ayacucho province. (There is also evidence that *Sendero Luminoso* has executed young people.)

The rebels have recruited some students from Ayacucho secondary schools, a fact used by the military to justify widespread arrests.

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Trimaran crew rescued after 17 hours in sea

New York (Reuters)

All five crewmen from a capsized French trimaran were rescued after spending 17 hours clinging to the hull, the US Coast Guard said yesterday.

The *Medecins Sans Frontière*, skippered by Jean-Yves Terlain, capsized 600 miles south of Bermuda while taking part in a race from Spain to Santo Domingo following the route of the 1492 voyage by Christopher Columbus.

The trimaran overturned when it ran into 16ft waves created by high winds.

The crew did not have time to send a distress call. But a crewmember flipped a switch activating an automatic satellite-linked alarm system, known as Argos, which broadcast a distress signal and the vessel's exact location to the US Coast Guard Rescue and Coordination Centre.

All the rescued crewmen were reported to be in good shape despite their ordeals.

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*Manufacturers data. DOT figs. Montego 1.6L Estate simulated urban cycle 31.9 mpg/8.9L per 100 km. Constant 56 mph 53.3 mpg/5.3L per 100 km. Constant 75 mph 38.8 mpg/7.3L per 100 km. Prices correct at time of going to press excluding number plates and delivery. Main illustration 2.0 HL at £8,126 with integral roof rack and rear child seats at extra cost.

SPECTRUM

The day before UNICEF publishes a disturbing report on the state of the world's children,

Caroline Moorehead reveals that British youngsters too are increasingly at risk

Our children under siege

As the year ends in one of the most prosperous countries of the world, it is clear that though British children are not starving to death their position and prospects have declined in the last decade. Today the British child is smoking more, drinking more alcohol, sniffing more glue and injecting considerably more heroin than he would have done in the mid-1970s. He runs away more often from home and, having committed more crimes is more likely to serve a custodial sentence.

He is three times more likely to be living on or below the Supplementary poverty line, and will much more probably come from a broken or one-parent family from whom he will receive less attention, affection and security. This year, one child each week was battered to death. Usually it was a boy, aged less than a year, and he died from head injuries.

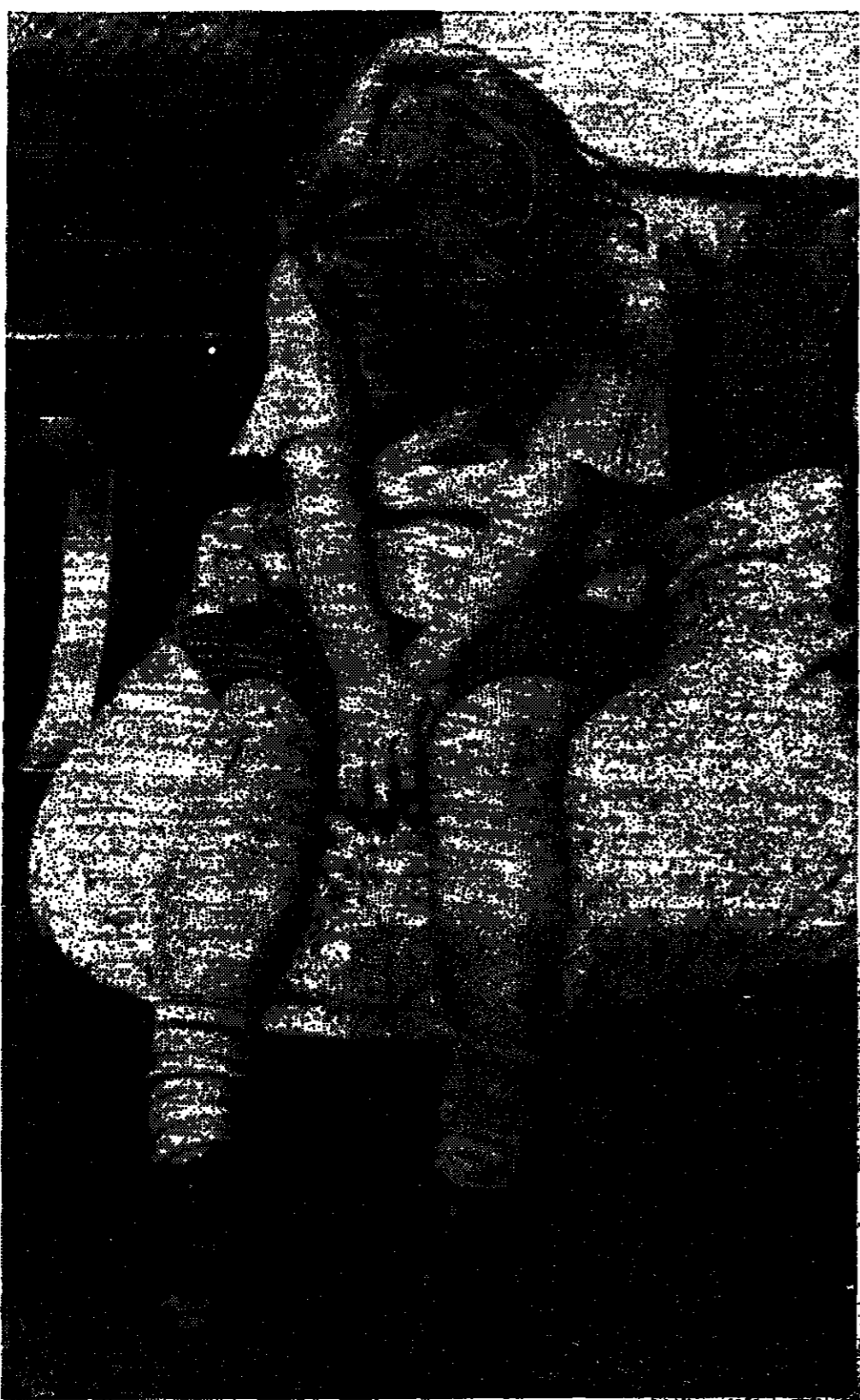
There are today just over 12 million children, more of them boys than girls, in the United Kingdom. While legitimate births have declined by nearly a third in 20 years, illegitimate ones have doubled. One in eight of all families is now a one-parent family, an increase of just over 70 per cent in 10 years.

Meanwhile, the fastest growing group of statutory orders on children is matrimonial. So confused is the civil law governing family matters that a couple can have three children in care for the same reasons, under three different statutory provisions: one order in the juvenile court, one in county court and another in a High court. Each has its own rules on evidence and appeal.

The last decade has seen a virtual tripling of the number of children living within what the Child Poverty Action Group considers as poverty or its margins, from 1.25m in 1974 to 3.68m in 1981, the last moment when comparable figures were available. That number has undoubtedly risen. "Increasingly, we're finding poverty in families with children", says Ruth Lister of CPAG.

"These last years have seen a definite shift away from pensioners and towards children." Particularly hard, she adds, is the fact that while poverty grows, so do the expectations of poor children, as advertising on television promises a future of home computers, automatic cameras and innumerable desirable gadgets.

It is obvious that poverty cannot be linked to all children's ills. However, as the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children reveals, more than 50,000 children are now either being battered every year (more of them, but less seriously, than in the 1970s) or mentally tortured, neglected or emotionally starved, and that nearly two-thirds of these families are receiving supplementary benefits - a steady rise from less than half in 1977. (That year 35 per cent of fathers in battering families were unemployed; five years later, 58 per cent).



Mistreated and alone, one of a growing number of children at risk in Britain

"There is no simple causal connection, of course," one child worker said. "But there is equally an obvious and complex interaction between unemployment, stress, vulnerability and child abuse." A father who has lost his job, the NSPCC research shows, may well try to reassert his authority through violence.

Violence perpetuated both on the young and by the young is up. Sexual abuse, the subject of widespread enquiry both in England and the United States this year, has been consistently under-reported for some time. From figures gathered in 1983, it would seem that there are 0.09 cases per 1,000 children -

81 per cent of whom, said, are compared with 0.63 in 1977. Physical abuse, in the form of incidents, as many as 25,000 children may suffer some form of sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.

Children themselves are participating in the overall rise in crime. Indictable offences, like bodily harm, blackmail, assault and housebreaking among those over 10 and under 17 rose from 83,000 in 1972 to 90,000 in 1982. (In the United States but not here - arson is teaching what public officials call epidemic "propaganda". "Increasingly, the firms are being set by children. In 1983, 20,000 people were arrested, for arson, an increase in four years of 13 per cent. Of those almost half were under 18. A few were aged between four and eight. Nearly all were boys.)

Matching the rise in crime, there is a tremendous increase in the use of custody for young offenders, despite a new law, the Criminal Justice Act of 1982, which should have resulted in the opposite. Last year, 2,000 juveniles received custodial sentences.

To the violence about cities and to the disintegration of their families, children are increasingly responding by running away. One boy recently spent three weeks in the woods avoiding police; another ran from an unhappy home 22 times in a year. Centrepoint, set up in 1969 as London's "crash pad" to offer refuge for teenagers at night, turns away about 1,500 would-be residents a year.

In the last three years, a growing number have been under 16, and as many as one in six, according to one worker, were illiterate. Surprisingly,

the national statistics on the matter are not as clear as they seem. In 1974, 25,000 children were said to be found within their own homes. At the end of 1983, 266 boys and 139 girls under 16 had not been found, and 1,000 boys and 1,300 girls between 16 and 17 were not yet accounted for.

The social habits of these teenagers are not clear. They are before ASH, the anti-smoking campaign, pressed by the Government in 1982. What they know now is that 10 to 16 year-olds are currently spending nearly £50m a year on smoking, and that 27 per cent of 15 and 16 year-olds claim to be regular smokers.

Dr. Ronald Laing, a leading authority on mental illness, has said that the pattern of mental illness in children is changing. He says that the pattern of mental illness in children is changing. He says that the pattern of mental illness in children is changing.

A quick check-list of some of the films you might see in your local cinema this Christmas. Ghostbusters. A new American comedy about ghosts. The Real Spectre. Hound. Comically inventive remake of The Hound of the Baskervilles. A large replica of Ealing Studios was erected on top of lonely Dartmoor, and the entire film shot on location inside it. Ealing shot the whole story - takes place in thick fog, or we saw a particularly bad print. Where Gremlins Roam. Same film, different title. Blockbusters. A new American ghost comedy about lots of money.

The Ghost from Ipanema. Low-budget Latin American mystery movie about Astrid Gilberto, a girl who vanishes mysteriously in the 1960s after being terribly famous and just as mysteriously resurfaces 20 years later.

The Ghost in Red. New Gene Wilder ghost comedy, not unlike old Gene Wilder comedy, in turn not unlike early

McBrooks comedies, which may or may not be like early Woody Allen comedies. The way, lots of ghosts. Ghostwriters. New American comedy about a missing script which never quite turns up. Give my Regards to Broadway. A musical about the art of Woody Allen. The plot, inspired as there is one, concerns a young man who loses a new LP by Paul McCartney. Unfortunately it turns up near the end. The whole film was shot in a replica of New York and constructed in London, because the tube is safer than the subway. Give my Regards to an Essex Replica of Strawberry Lane built somewhere on the outskirts of London. Two-hour documentary on the ceremony surrounding Paul McCartney being made a Freeman of the City of Liverpool. The missing mayor turns up near the end.

Ghostbusters. Early film about the vagrant musicians who play in the London Underground. You know how you hear guitar music coming from round the next corner, and when you get there there's no one there? This film suggests it's all done by the ghost of the early Bob Dylan coming back to haunt the '80s. How this is possible, consider

THE FACTS

1982 Total United Kingdom population 58 million
Population under 16 12 million
Abortions girls under 16 4,245
One in eight of all families a one parent family. One in six of all children likely to need some special education.

POVERTY (on, below or on margins of Supplementary Benefit level)
1974 1.25 million
1981 3.68 million

CHILD ABUSE
1984 50,000 children physically and mentally abused, neglected and emotionally starved
800 severely with injuries to bones, head etc.
52 battered to death

CRIME (Indictable offences in children of over 10 and under 17)
1972 83,000
1982 90,000

ADDICTION
Notified young drug addicts tried in nine years
One child in four a regular smoker at 15-16
Driving offences in under 18 year olds tripled in 20 years

MISSING
1983 boys under 14 266
boys 14-17 1,074
girls under 14 139
girls 14-17 1,346

ADOPTION
1968-24,831 adoption orders in England and Wales
1983 9,029 adoption orders in England and Wales

Union of Teachers says that these figures are "a warning of a crisis in the way we bring up our children". It says that the figures are a warning of a crisis in the way we bring up our children. It says that the figures are a warning of a crisis in the way we bring up our children.

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When changes in the abortion law and attitudes towards parent families and institutions dried up the original flow of healthy white babies for adoption, Tony Hall was among those who pressed hard for an aggressive programme of finding homes for older and handicapped children.

Through the use of Europe and America, the same thing had happened. The response, to not enough white babies was to turn to bringing in "intercountry" ones, a subject of much anxiety and controversy. "The tactics of the adoption agencies have been successful," says Tony Hall.

Tony Hall proudly reports that last year 200,000 children were adopted. He says that the figures are a warning of a crisis in the way we bring up our children.

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Partners in the sponsorship game: Tim Bell (left), Anthony Quayle and Derek Hornby

The art of getting theatre sponsors

The key words to remember, according to Anthony Quayle, are co-operation, charm and beg. Do all four in sufficient quantity and you might find yourself halfway up a queue of unemployed aspiring arts companies knocking on the door of private industry and asking for crumbs from the big business dining table.

Quayle, now a lively 71, is the man who made the Stratford theatre into the respected institution which is now the Royal Shakespeare Company, and then, sick of finding that administration took up more time than acting, left it all to make a series of films - some good, such as *Ice Cold in Alex*, some simply awful.

Last year, he announced the formation of Compass Theatre, a new touring company designed to live half on the Arts Council grant and half on private income. A nice idea, said the theatrical world, but doomed to failure. For a start,

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and raise a further £100,000 yourself from other sources. Since every other arts company is in the same penurious boat, that is no easy task. Sponsorship is a relatively new facet of Conservative arts policy, and one in which great faith is being placed. It is no coincidence that the job of secretary general of the Arts Council, when it became vacant two years ago, went not to a proven arts administrator, but to Luke Rittner, who was then heading the Association of Business Sponsorship of the Arts. But it is still a hazy and unproven idea, and the fate of Quayle's company may well prove just how workable the notion really is.

How do you go about convincing British business that backing the arts is worthwhile? It helps, of course, to have influential friends, and Compass has been well blessed in that respect. Tim Bell, the ebullient chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi, and a close confidante of the Prime Minister, chairs the board. Quayle cornered Bell, after being employed on the voice-over work for the Conservative Party television commercials produced by Saatchi during the last election, a job he continues to perform during the odd party political broadcast.

Over lunch Bell decided that he liked the idea and became the chairman of the company. Though he never reveals the fact, in interviews, he also ploughed £50,000 of his own money into Compass. Roy Kincaid, who had been approached by Quayle to join the first play, suggested a meeting with a Rank Xerox executive, now the company's chairman, Derek Hornby.

Before entering industry, Hornby had worked as administrator at Stratford for three years, though shortly after Quayle had left, and the two men had hardly met.

Hornby looked at the company's position, diagnosed cash flow problems and arranged for Rank Xerox to guarantee an overdraft - "which, in the end, it turned out Compass didn't need, because it broke even on the year".

Bell says: "To be honest, I was quite surprised that Tony had experienced any trouble

getting funding for the idea because it's such a nice one and his track record is so good. For the future we think our operating costs will be about £15,000 a week so our total for the six months will be about £350,000. On top of that we have the cost of the production, between, say, £70,000 and £90,000 each, say £250,000 for all three. We think we'll more or less cover the operating costs from box office income, leaving us with the £250,000 to find from elsewhere."

Even such a persuasive personality as Bell finds the going hard on the sponsorship front. "We don't fall naturally into any sponsorship category. It's not really like Coca-Cola paying for a tennis tournament where they know their name will end up on television. We're talking about an invisible, abstract concept."

But attitudes are changing. If you are operating in a country, it is probably reasonable to do things that make you part of that country. If you're part of people's lives, then they will get to know you. Some people just want to use it as a place to take their customers.

"I don't think many sponsors want to put on the Marlboro production of *St Joan*, or the *Forti King Lear*, but if you see a play in which someone comes on with an airline bag then I don't see why the airline shouldn't sponsor that bit. There's a huge business in future films where people pay according to the number of times their particular brand of cigarette is smoked. In the Bond films they are charging around £100,000 a product."

Hornby is keen on local sponsorship in the towns on tour. "In a local area, if you are a major employer there are a number of things you can do as a sponsor. Most companies want to put something back into the community."

The Compass local price lists offers, for £5,000, 70 tickets, a credit on all advertising material and programmes, and the attendance of the cast at a reception after the performance. Not every Theatran wants to go backstage after a performance and hobnob with officials from a local building society, of course.

"But I have to drag them along to do it," says Quayle. "It's part of the job. We need sponsors like that." The actor says that his aim is to create a high-class touring company "before I'm too old to do it."

At the heart of Quayle's company lies the belief that theatre is an art form, not a building or an administration. It remains to be seen whether the private sector shares that belief.

David Hewson

The big business backers

£500,000, and says that it likes to support groups which are particularly involved in education and work with young people.

The present trend of arts sponsorship is heavily weighted towards classical music in London. At least half of the £1.5m spent on arts sponsorship is spent in London, and the same figure goes on classical music, opera, and ballet.

Mr Colin Tweedy, Lake Rittner's successor as director of the Association of Business Sponsorship of the Arts, said: "Most of the money is spent in London because that is where

people have their headquarters, and therefore they want to entertain where people are. But we are detecting a move against this."

Business sponsorship of the arts had risen from £600,000 in 1976 to its present £1.5m a year level, Mr Tweedy said, but there was still a wide gap between its funding and the £100m of public money spent by the Arts Council each year.

The base is broadening. More and more arts groups are getting sponsorship each year, but more and more are asking. It's a dramatic increase in the number of hands grasping at the money pot, but the cash isn't increasing at the same speed."

THE TWO THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR ETHIOPIA

1 Send money, the victims of famine in Ethiopia need food and water - right now! Public response to Ethiopia has been magnificent. Generous gifts have enabled us to rush out vital food grain and mount an emergency aid programme. But the needs are enormous. We now need more money for food, water, transport and long term help to bring these poor people back from the brink.

2 Join 'Hungry For Change'. Clearly, we can't go on like this. In the long term we need change. Ethiopia needs it. Sudan, Chad, Brazil... we all need a change in the system that allows 500 million people to go hungry every day. In October we launched a campaign to make that change. We called it 'Hungry For Change'. Please fill in the coupon below and join us today. Yes, we need your money, but more than that - we need you!

1. I enclose a donation of £
2. Yes, I will join 'Hungry For Change'. Please send me details immediately

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Please return this coupon to Guy Stringer, Oxfam, Room TM39, Freepost, Oxford OX2 7BR.

miscover. Miles Kingston

McBrooks comedies, which may or may not be like early Woody Allen comedies. The way, lots of ghosts. Ghostwriters. New American comedy about a missing script which never quite turns up. Give my Regards to Broadway. A musical about the art of Woody Allen. The plot, inspired as there is one, concerns a young man who loses a new LP by Paul McCartney. Unfortunately it turns up near the end. The whole film was shot in a replica of New York and constructed in London, because the tube is safer than the subway. Give my Regards to an Essex Replica of Strawberry Lane built somewhere on the outskirts of London. Two-hour documentary on the ceremony surrounding Paul McCartney being made a Freeman of the City of Liverpool. The missing mayor turns up near the end.

Ghostbusters. Early film about the vagrant musicians who play in the London Underground. You know how you hear guitar music coming from round the next corner, and when you get there there's no one there? This film suggests it's all done by the ghost of the early Bob Dylan coming back to haunt the '80s. How this is possible, consider

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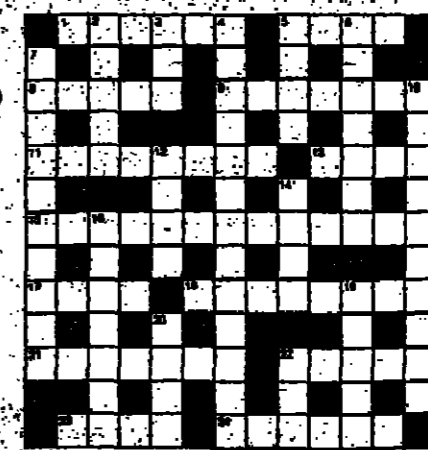
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CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 524)

ACROSS
1. Casual trousers (6)
5. Flaps (4)
8. Coast opening (5)
9. Close circle (2,5)
11. Authority dealer (8)
13. Christian youth club (1,1,1,1)
15. Pretext (8,5)
17. Not yours (4)
18. Lathyrus odoratus (6,3)
21. Keep out (7)
22. Repair badly (5)
23. Short fastener (4)
24. Disembarked (6)



DOWN
2. Syringe (5)
3. Baby's bed (3)
4. Fibre twister (8,5)
6. Stumped (7)
7. Object magnifier (10)
10. Disturbance queller (10)
12. Benefit (4)
14. Footwear (4)
16. Peach-like fruit (7)
19. Army chaplain (5)
20. Money reserve (4)
22. Current roll (3)

SOLUTION TO No 523
ACROSS: 1. Rises 4. Odyssey 8. Clean 9. Incubus 10. Tempting
11. Dunes 13. Self service 17. Haha 19. Specimen 21. Receive 22. Allot
23. Holes 24. Bath
DOWN: 1. Redie 2. Cream 3. Semifinal 4. Orient Express 5. Yack
6. Sublime 7. Yassman 12. Evacuate 14. Ethical 15. Church 16. Search
19. Mohr 20. Rise



Albert Quatre and Derek...

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How the British sank their first Cognac Courvoisier

Cognac has long been a favourite of the British.

As far back as 1815, Dr Samuel Johnson made the following observation:

Claret is for boys and men. But cognac is for heroes.

Be that as it may, it is certain that of the

Courvoisier is the only cognac to be honoured with The Diploma Prestige de la France, the French award for excellence.

the British Emperor's favourite, somewhat slim.

Circumstances changed that

In 1815, after his abdication, Napoleon arranged to leave secretly for the United States of America.

He loaded two ships with a variety of provisions, including cognac supplied by Emmanuelle Courvoisier.

In 1860, Felix Courvoisier was appointed official purveyor of cognacs to the Court of Napoleon III.

Napoleon subsequently changed his mind and decided to give



Courtesy of Napoleon.

himself up to the British.

All his belongings, including the cognac, were eventually transferred to the HMS Northumberland, thus giving the British officers ample time to taste the cognac.

In fact they got such a taste for it that Courvoisier became known as the cognac of Napoleon.

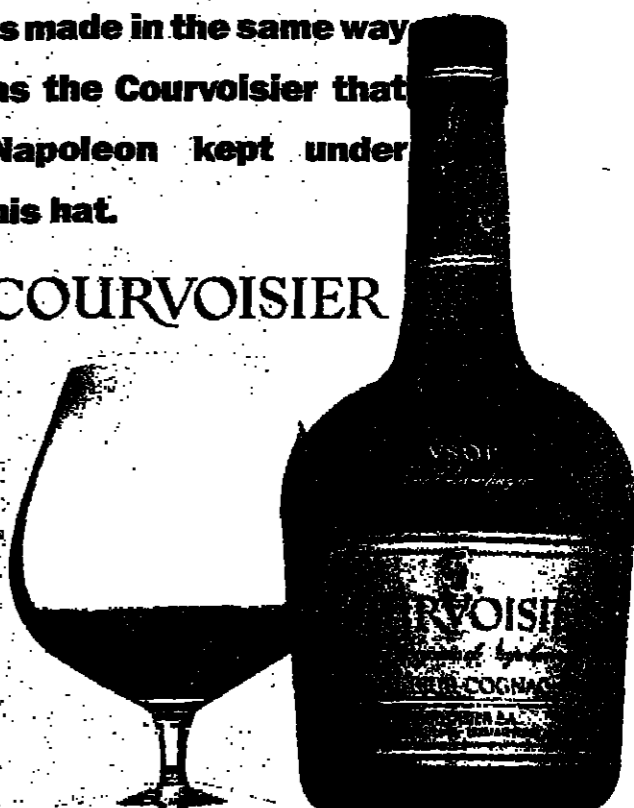
Courvoisier is still made in the same way, using the best grapes of the Charente area of France.

All brandy is not cognac. Cognac can only be produced from the grapes of the Charente area of South West France, where conditions are ideal. Ordinary brandies can be produced anywhere, from almost any fruit.

It is matured in oak casks for a longer period than French cognac laws decree and blended by Master blenders, who serve an apprenticeship of at least ten years.

The Courvoisier we drink today is made in the same way as the Courvoisier that Napoleon kept under his hat.

COURVOISIER



Le Cognac de Napoleon

The Born Leader

HONG KONG FASHION I

by Suzy Menkes



Enticing the



Embroidered satin dressing gown by Lim Ying Ying £162, Harrods lingerie. Ivory silk tuxedo jacket £96 and pyjama trousers £72 both by Fern Wright and Manson from Younger Set, Harrods, Knightsbridge SW1. Cherry blossom tree from Neal Street East, Covent Garden WC2.

Hong Kong has a flourishing fashion industry in search of its roots. The colony is planted in China, and is soon to be a part of it, yet Hong Kong fashion looks towards the West.

The streets may echo with the click of Mah Jong counters, but also with Western high heels. While mainland China is still encased in Mao suits, Hong Kong's fashion uniform is jeans and designer labels.

This thrusting city with its outlying territories is the third largest fashion exporter the world, with figures that show a beanshoot growth. Hong Kong was once known for the cheap and shoddy, but it is now trading upwards as surely as the Peak Tram climbs to its panoramic heights. As you look down from the top at the sweep of the South China Sea and huge container port, you are looking at a manufacturing base with the capacity to clothe the entire western world. It is an awesome thought.

Behind the coastal ridge and its undulating New Territories lies a vast and untapped market which Hong Kong is culturally and strategically placed to serve. The dragon is already stirring, as the People's Republic of China takes its first tentative steps towards creating a consumer market for clothing.

Hong Kong's fashion success so far has come from being fast on its feet. As the market for cheap T-shirts and cut-price separates moved away to lower-cost countries in Asia—Taiwan, Singapore and even China itself—Hong Kong deliberately decided to increase its fashion content. Even if those other countries follow its lead, they still have a long way to catch up, says George Blaney, deputy executive director of the Trade Development Council, which was set up in 1966 and has majored on fashion promotion.

"We have established ourselves as reliable and fashionable and the entire infrastructure of Hong Kong makes it comfortable for people who trade," says Mr. Blaney. "We are already on that upward escalator and we are moving on at a relatively faster pace."

Tomorrow Mrs. Thatcher arrives in Peking

to sign the treaty to hand the British

Crown Colony to mainland China

Chairman Deng Xiaoping heads a country

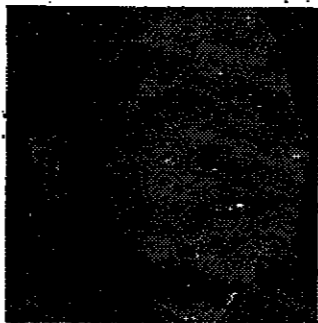
of one thousand million potential

consumers. The Hong Kong fashion

industry has found its markets and its

inspiration in the West. But designers are

now examining their cultural identity

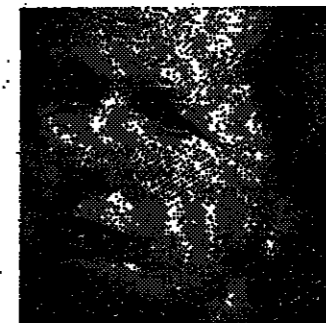


It is a neat metaphor for the urban shopping malls and walkways which make Hong Kong Island and the Kowloon side into an endless conveyor belt of fashion.

The most influential of these shopping areas is the Landmark—a monument in white marble and splashing fountains to the international designer labels. These are the status symbol clothes for the chic, wealthy Hong Kong ladies, the "Tai Tais" as the Chinese language graphically describes them.

In fact, Hong Kong itself is increasingly a manufacturing resource for upmarket designer names—not for the high fashion collections, but for the more regular lines that need to be made in quantity to a high standard.

I watched Giorgio Armani, menswear, the Krizia Mirrors collection, Perry Ellis' multi-patterned cashmere, Valentino and Ungaro labels all rolling off



the high tech Japanese computerized machines at Top Knitters, who justifiably style themselves as "the name behind the labels".

Capturing the Italian designer was a source of particular pride, says Elizabeth Woo Li of Top Knitters, who did her fashion training in New York.

Hong Kong has worked hard to lose its sweat shop image, but designers need to play an active part in the industry and build up an indigenous look, says Judy Mann. She set up this year a group of 29 designers to promote Hong Kong style, in the local market as well as overseas, and to recruit and encourage young designers.

"A lot of people criticize us for not being creative enough," says Judy Mann. "We want to be creative, but we also want to succeed. I have a factory and a shop dependent on me, and personally I have to be com-

mercial and I have to think internationally."

Judy Mann's clothes are high quality separates with a sense of Italian style, which is currently the main fashion influence in Hong Kong. Her fabrics are all imported, mostly from Italy, for the colony is a major textile importer.

"What we need is eccentricity," says Ragene Lam, who trained as a fashion designer in London at St Martin's and the RCA before going back to his roots in Hong Kong. Ragene Lam is now exploring Chinese culture, cutting funnel and pagoda sleeves, using ethnic accessories like Chinese sandals and coolie hats, and even cutting coats and jackets out of traditional straw matting.

"I am beginning to feel a sense of belonging," he says. "I don't really have any roots, but now that we see more of the mainland Chinese, I feel a need to identify."

The problem for Hong Kong, artificially cut off from its own cultural heritage by British colonial rule and the barriers put up by China itself for the past 30 years, is which part of China to identify with.

Jenny Lewis is fascinated by Imperial China and her collection of antique embroidered robes was the starting point of her fashion career. Now she finds herself an English-born designer to whom the Chinese come for festival *chong sam*. She also uses skills of mainland China for the elaborate beaded dresses in Western styles which she exports.

Jenny Lewis's dresses, with their rivers of colour flowing like shaded paint across a simple shift, are made in China, although she finds working with the Chinese a problem as there is no clear chain of command within the factories and no conception of the demands of fashion.

Chinese culture is delicately expressed in Hong Kong in the lacquer red sausages hanging on the street stalls, in the pale antique jades and porcelain pots, even in the vivid neon signs in Chinese characters on

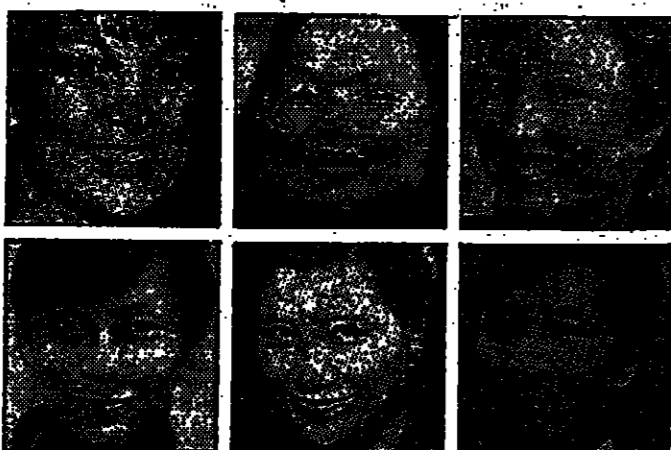
continued on facing page

The cool crisp taste of
Martini Extra Dry shines through.
Once found, never lost.
It's there to be discovered.

MARTINI

HONG KONG FASHION II

Dragon



Hong Kong designers: Above left to right—Jenny Lewis, Hannah Pang, Diane Freis, Ragence Lam, Kai-Yin Lo, Eddie Lau.

continued from facing page

the Kowloon streets. None of this rich heritage is seen in clothing.

Eddie Lau says that the range he designed for Chinese Arts and Crafts was inspired by the colours of traditional porcelain. Working in China, he has produced patterns and blocks of colour for simple dresses, often combining silk with wool.

"I want to upgrade Chinese silk," he says. "But the idea of a Chinese fashion feeling is more complex. I want to introduce it in a subtle way, deciding a suitable direction for oriental women."

There are only a handful of designers who have managed to capture the upmarket local clientele. Others include Walter Ma, who has a couture cut and international inspiration, David Sheekwan, who looks creatively at Hong Kong's traditional asset of knitting. Hannah Pang makes interesting leatherwork.

Kai-Yin Lo's jewellery, with its tactile combinations of carved and polished stones, of flat wood and bone with rough turquoise and splashes of coral, has brought her international renown and a flourishing export market, especially in the United States.

But where, I asked Lucia Carpio Chu of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, do the ordinary people shop? She took me to Causeway Bay, where there is a series of Japanese department stores.

There are 10,149 manufacturers of apparel in Hong Kong and more than a quarter of a million in the Japanese market.

Kai-Yin Lo's jewellery, with its tactile combinations of carved and polished stones, of flat wood and bone with rough turquoise and splashes of coral, has brought her international renown and a flourishing export market, especially in the United States.

Exports of clothes and accessories rose by an overwhelmingly impressive 44 per cent in the last year (June 1984). The total value of these exports was 3.4 billion.

The UK rates third in the world for Hong Kong exports behind the United States and West Germany. The only cloud in the thin blue sky that stretches over Repulse Bay is the protectionist policy in the United States, which now insists that a country of origin label is specific.

Communist China is already an export market, 12th on the list, the figures up 85 per cent.

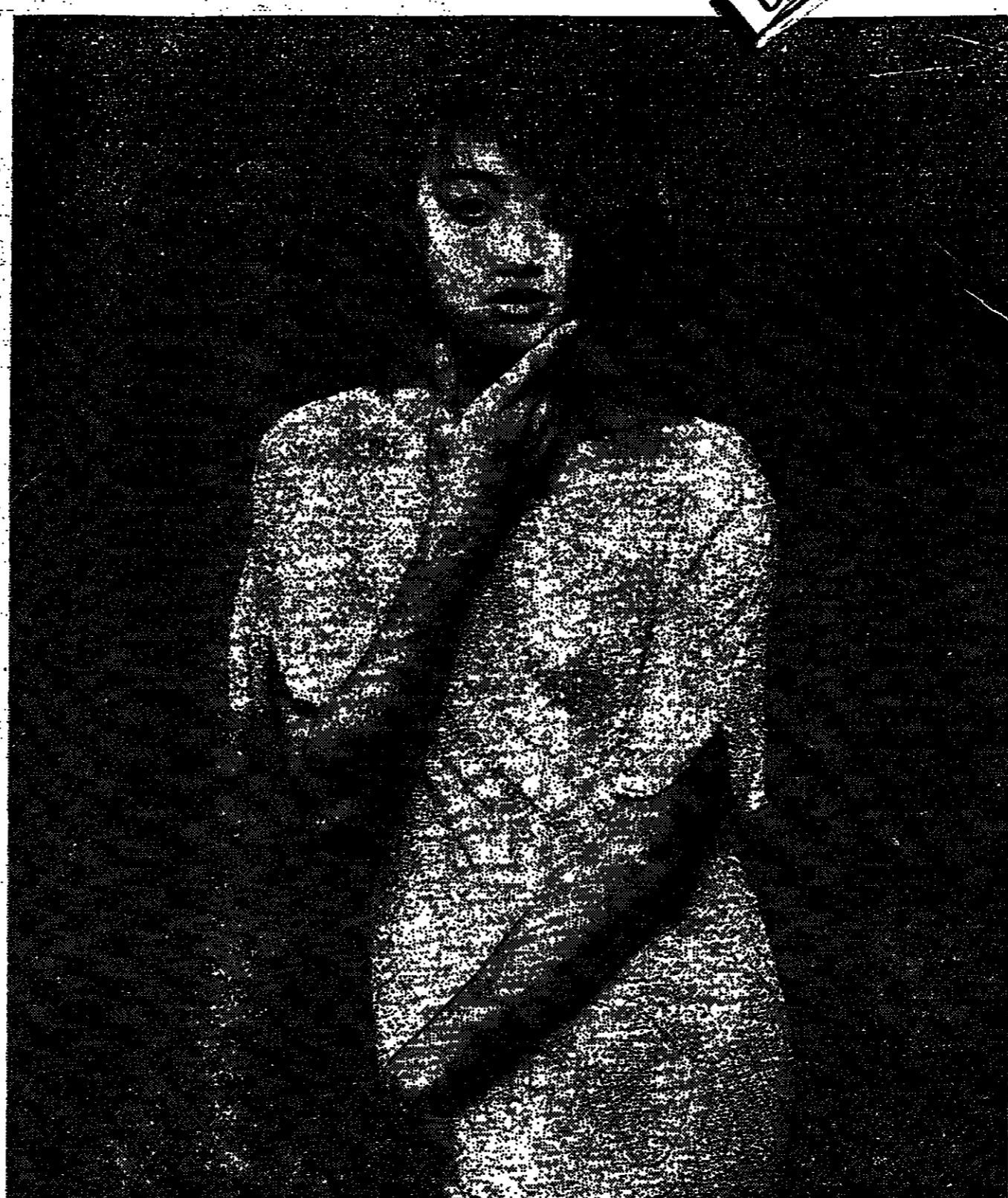
"It is a phenomenal increase, a quantum leap," says George Blaney of the Trade Development Council. "At the lower end we cannot compete with China and they know we can't. But the Chinese are now asking us for help in choosing products and marketing at the Canton and Shanghai fairs. China has to offer us a colossal amount of land and a colossal amount of labour. We can offer them channels of communication and the largest and best equipped port on the South China Sea."

It sounds like a perfect match. The marriage contract will be signed tomorrow in Peking.



Ear darts: Antique and modern with...

...the Kowloon streets. None of this rich heritage is seen in clothing.



The siren call of the West for the traditional Chinese craft of bead embroidery. English-born designer Jenny Lewis, cream dress with scallop sleeves completely embroidered in sequins in the People's Republic of China. From a selection, £840 from Harrods Designer Evening Wear, Knightsbridge SW1.



FASHFLASH

Products for make-up... You can save time and money with festive season... You can save time and money with festive season... You can save time and money with festive season...

on a rope (£2.50), Body Bronzer (£9.99) and Body Fitness... You can save time and money with festive season... You can save time and money with festive season...

FRONT

...the Kowloon streets. None of this rich heritage is seen in clothing.

BIN 27 PORT

...the Kowloon streets. None of this rich heritage is seen in clothing.

MEXICANA

...the Kowloon streets. None of this rich heritage is seen in clothing.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Creamed off

Strawberry Fields forever? Apparently not, John Lennon, whose song immortalised the Liverpool Salvation Army children's home in whose grounds he played as a boy, obviously reckoned without the hard-left city council and its pursuit of "municipalization". Tomorrow the council is expected to rubber-stamp a social services committee decision to stop sending children to voluntary homes such as Strawberry Fields in order to keep open two under-used council-run homes. Captain David Botting, the officer in charge, says that starved of children Strawberry Fields would face closure. Liberal councillors describe the plan as "municipal vandalism" motivated by "blind dogma".

Speller bound

Secret service spooks listening to phones at CND headquarters would have been intrigued by one of the calls received on Friday. It came from the office of backbench Tory MP Tony Speller, who asked for a copy of the CND booklet *Trident: Britain's Independent Arms Race*. "No, it's not for Mr Speller," conceded the caller when pressed. "It's for Mr Heseltine's private office."

Bad tidings

The latest "Happy Christmas" edition of *Fort News* is filled with 20 pages of news of record-breaking Ford cars, league-topping sales, and improved salaries. Everything, in fact, except mention of the month-long strike that has laid off 10,000 workers, cost them about £600 in pay each and halted production of some £200m worth of cars.

Book Marx

Foyles had not expected to find itself in the front line of miners' violence. Last Thursday, however, the bookshop found Coal not Dole stickers plastered across the window displaying Nicholas Hagger's *Scargill the Stalinist*. Later protestors invaded the shop itself, and stuck more stickers across the bookshelves. Now Foyles has been threatened with broken windows unless the books are removed. Far from complying, it has ordered more.

From each

I hate to spoil Mikhail Gorbachev's pilgrimage to Karl Marx's tomb in Highgate cemetery tomorrow but the Chinese have preempted him. Three weeks ago, Chinese vice-premier Tian Jiyuan made a secret early-morning trip to pay his respects at Marx's tomb during an unpublicised stopover on his way to Africa. The Friends of Highgate Cemetery, struggling to keep the burial grounds open, may not be above trading on Soviet-Chinese enmity, especially where rival claims to the founder of modern communism are concerned. Gorbachev's entourage will doubtless be informed that Tian gave the Friends a generous cheque and the promise of continued support.

BARRY FANTONI



"Perhaps now they'll be known as the shorter life assurance company"

Hurdle cleared

The Foreign Office has given the go-ahead to the latest novel by its former Minister of State, Douglas Hurd, puffed by Hodder as a wry account of the decline and fall of a Foreign Office minister. Hurd and his former private secretary, Stephen Lamport, will put the finishing touches to *The Palace of Enchantment* over Christmas, content in the knowledge that the FO mandarins have accepted their disclaimer. It is set in "an alternative present" where, for instance, a twitish upper class ambassador holds the post in a non-existent country.

Orgella

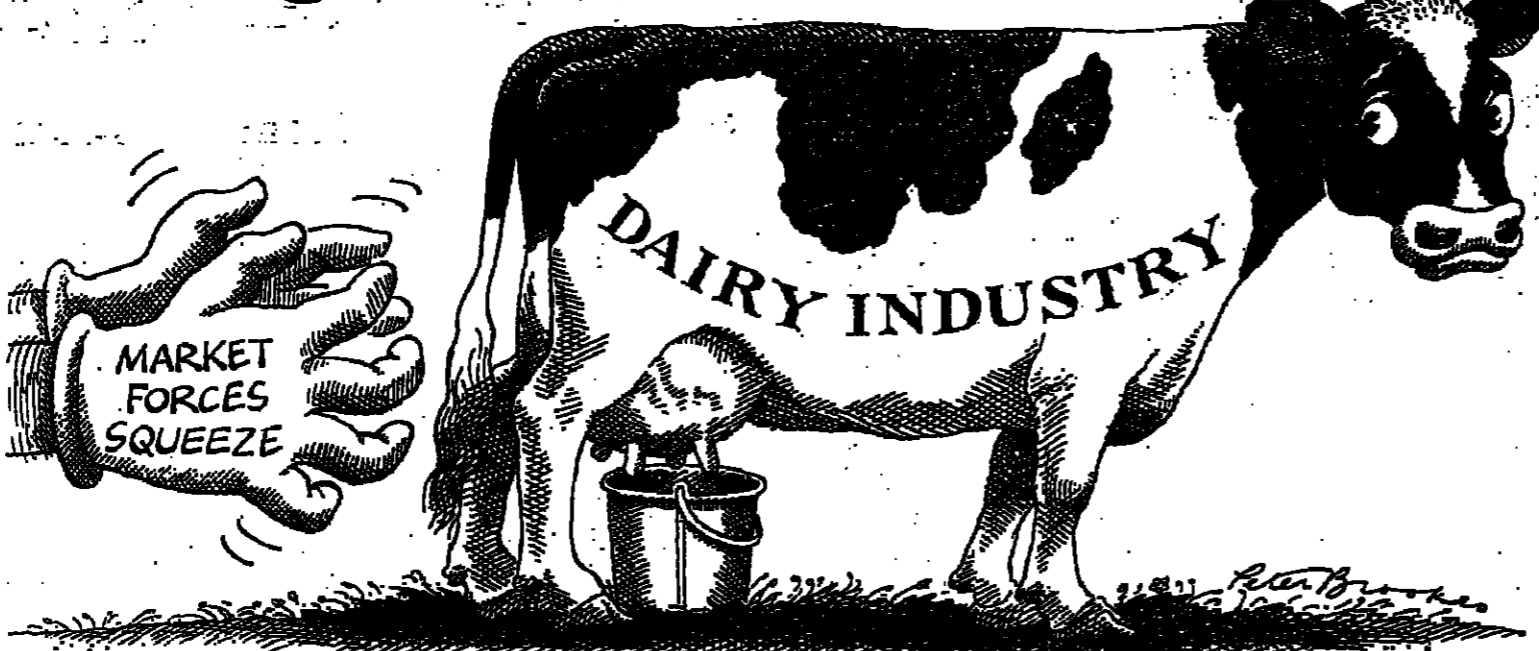
So much for modern music. Various "electro-acoustic pieces" were broadcast recently by the Radio 3 programme *Music in our Time*. Unfortunately the tape of one, by Margaret Sambell, was played backwards. But for the composer, not a listener noticed.

Eye aye

Private Eye has obviously gone soft after 23 puritanical years. W. H. Smith - dubbed W. H. Smug by the Eye - has agreed to dirty its fingers and stock it from February. Yesterday Smith insisted it was not the content it had objected to, but the fear of libel action; it is now convinced that distributors are seldom named in actions. Eye editor Richard Ingrams told me: "It doesn't mean we've gone establishment. I've still to win a libel action, and we'll still be calling them Smugs."

PHS

Taking Buttercup to market forces



by John Young

Perhaps the clearest sign that the Government wants a shake-up in British agriculture, with market forces given greater prominence, is its decision to end price controls for milk and to hold an inquiry into the relationship between the Milk Marketing Board for England and Wales and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Dairy Crest.

The board began life in 1933 as a farmers' cooperative and is still owned by its members. Ironically the man expected to head the inquiry is a former Labour agricultural minister, John Silkin, who has always been considered a staunch supporter of the board and only two weeks ago was appointed an adviser.

The inquiry has been provoked by the board's acquisition of 16 Unigate creameries in 1979. Dairy Crest, which was set up to run the manufacturing operation, is now Britain's largest producer of butter and cheese, with 80 per cent of the home-produced butter market.

Although the board is legally forbidden to sell milk more cheaply to Dairy Crest than to other producers, their close relationship is still suspected and resented within the industry. The European Commission in Brussels has threatened to withhold up to £25m in payments to Britain if it is satisfied that manufacturers have been supplied with milk at artificially low prices.

This has not been a good year for Britain's dairy industry. Nearly nine months after the imposition of production quotas, intended to

reduce or at least stabilize the EEC butter, cheese and milk powder markets, farmers are as confused and uncertain as ever. Reduced production could lead to plant closures and redundancies; the industry's structure could be undermined by the Government's decision to end price controls.

Few people outside the industry are aware of how huge and complex it is, involving some 40,000 producers (farmers, not cows), five milk marketing boards and, on the distribution side, some of the largest conglomerates in Britain. Although consumption has been declining steadily for some years, primarily for health reasons, the doorstep "pint" is still a significant element in the retail price index for the Government to have baulked at ending controls until it was satisfied it had inflation on a leash.

Under the present arrangements the five milk marketing boards (England and Wales, three in Scotland, and one in Northern Ireland) buy more than 98 per cent of milk off farms; the exceptions are the few producer-processors who make and sell their own cheese or who have contracted to sell, say, cream or ice cream to local shops.

The price the boards pay to farmers is based partly on the doorstep price for liquid milk, which accounts for about 60 per cent of total sales, and partly on what

butter, cheese and other food manufacturers are prepared to pay for their supplies. It is widely accepted that the balance has become distorted, and that the Government's decision to let market forces take over will prove to be a wise one.

Controls were originally introduced in 1940 to prevent wartime profiteering. Ever since then the Ministry of Agriculture has annually decreed both the price to be paid by the boards to farmers and the maximum doorstep retail price.

By carving up the doorstep market among themselves (how often do you see more than one milk float in the same street?) dairy giants such as Express, Unigate, Northern and the Co-op have never had to undercut one another, and the maximum price has always been the accepted retail price. This cosy cartel has suited the milk marketing boards very well; it has allowed them to pay high prices to farmers, and it explains why both the boards and the Dairy Trade Federation have gone to such lengths to extol the present delivery system.

In Europe, where doorstep deliveries are rare, a different view is taken. The British retail price, 22p a pint, is the highest in the EEC, and our dairy companies are regularly accused of using the high returns from liquid milk sales to subsidize butter and cheese manufacture.

In an ordinarily competitive market things might be seen differently, but this is no ordinary market. It is heavily over-supplied - from New Zealand, Denmark, the Netherlands, France and West Germany as well as from Britain, and consequently large quantities of butter and low-grade Cheddar cheese have to be bought up and put into storage.

Almost every report on the industry has recommended changes in the present price structure, until now with no result. The decision by Michael Jopling, the Minister of Agriculture, to withdraw his civil servants from the arena altogether is therefore a much more radical step than it might appear.

It might be asked whether the boards are still necessary. The question is guaranteed to make any dairy farmer shudder. For him they are his sole protection against being exposed to a repetition of the 1930s when the dairy firms restlessly drove prices down and forced farmers into bankruptcy.

The alternative might be the kind of large producer cooperatives which exist in northern France. But this would immediately create an imbalance between those near large centres of population and those, as in west Wales for example, remote from their markets. One thing to be said for the boards' monopoly is that farmers large and small, wherever they are, receive a uniform guaranteed price.

There is no right or indeed possibility of peaceful political opposition (no one knows how many people are imprisoned in the Chinese Gulag, though they certainly include the contributors to the hand-written newspapers on the famous "Wall of Democracy" that flourished so briefly a few years ago). There is no system of independent justice or of a right to trial, there is no assumption of innocence for any accused person, there is no freedom from secret arrest and imprisonment, there is no liberty of writing or publishing or speaking, there is no artistic freedom, there are no trade unions, there is no freedom of movement about China or from directed labour, there is no right to leave the country, and while we are about it, I may as well mention that there is no right for consenting adults to practise homosexuality in private.

It may be argued that all the political freedoms will follow on the heels of the economic ones; indeed, it will be so argued, by those who are not quite brazen enough to argue that the political freedoms already exist. We have been hearing that claim from South Africa's apologists for years, and there is still no sign of it actually happening. And in any case, there is no sign in China that more than the most limited freedom even of economic freedom is being contemplated.

If a man is chastising you with scorpions, and then abandons the scorpions for whips, you will experience some slight relief. But you would be rather overdoing things if you felt a great rush of gratitude to your tormentor and thanked him most warmly. It is good that a tiny crack of sense has opened in the wall of nonsense that has hitherto surrounded China's economic way of life, not only under Mao but also under Deng. But it is so far only a crack, and even if it should develop into a massive fissure it will mean nothing to the Chinese other than that they may in time become less poor. It is good to be less poor; it is better to be more free. When Deng Xiaoping announces that free freedom is to be permitted to the Chinese, and makes good his claim, I shall believe that something fundamental has changed there.

I can wait.

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Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Freed from dogma but it's still tyranny as before

Instead, there seem to have been suggestions that Marx has been dead for 101 years (Chinese arithmetic was always of a very high standard), that some of Marx's ideas are not necessarily and always appropriate in today's conditions, that there were many things that Marx, Engels and Lenin did not experience, that there are many questions not written in books, and that one cannot take a dogmatic attitude towards Marxism.

Never mind the obviousness and absurdity of the whole painful business, regard only what it reveals of the distance that China's present leader has travelled. If a man has always maintained that the earth is flat, he is surely to be commended if he now says that it is shaped like a rugger-ball; in the words of David Frost's judge who lets off a rapist with a string of convictions for homosexual offences, this is a step in the right direction.

It will be interesting to see how the unreconstructed Marxist-Maoist fellow-travellers in Britain and elsewhere take this news; some will denounce the Chinese leaders for following the capitalist road, others will simply follow round the U-turn, others again will fall into a stupor of bewilderment. But that is not what chiefly concerns me in the new Chinese situation.

For let us not suppose - though, alas, many will - that one blind swallow, its feathers bedraggled, its beak cracked, its eggs addled, makes glorious summer out of a winter of discontent. There is no sign at all, whatever limited reforms confined to the economic sphere may be instituted, that the people of China are becoming any more free, or that China's ruler has any intention of allowing them to. It remains true

the right direction.

Christmas post-push. (The 18th is the day AFTER the last day of posting for Christmas of second class mail. And ballot-papers must be returned by January 14.)

Would all NUJ members who wish to keep the Union's paper sensible and representative of the membership please note that of the four candidates, the most likely to do that is STEVE PATTERSON, and the second most likely is DAVID TURNER (who, though a Communist, is - I am assured by advisers in a position to know - a cautious professional who would not use the paper for party ends). Since the election is by Single Transferable Vote, members should not vote with an X, but with numbers. Moderates should put 1 against Patterson, and 2 against Turner; they should not use any further vote.

The NUJ and The Journalist

The monthly newspaper of the National Union of Journalists recently had a brief respite from its control by the far-left in the union, a respite used not only to moderate its political screaming, but to turn it into a very good journal, well written and well laid out. Alas, the editor who brought this about, Tony Craig, has gone, and an election for his successor is now in progress. My own guess, the London Free Press, which is now firmly back in the hands of the extremists - and, incidentally, it is one of the largest in the union, with some 10 per cent of the membership - has held up the despatch of ballot-papers to members, though these have been available for some time; the despatch date will now be Tuesday, December 18, nicely calculated to get delayed, overlooked or even lost in the

fire and then the thud-thud of exploding mortar shells.



Lying in a ditch for cover, the bridge workers' buoyancy turned to bitterness. "Remember that old Mexican song," asked one, "the one that goes 'life isn't worth a damn'?" There were no indications of guerrilla or army casualties, but one of the men at the bridge dripped blood from a bullet wound on the side of his head. "Down tools, boys, we're going home," said the foreman, feeling betrayal and disgust.

A few days later the guerrillas' distrust of the army got the better of their desire for peace. They blew up the bridge, and with it the hopes of thousands, an indication that talks or no talks, it looks like business as usual in El Salvador's civil war for a long time to come.

John Carlin

The brief span of Salvador's bridge of hope

Bridges are a favourite target of El Salvador's guerrillas. More than 60 have been blown up since the civil war began. But the guerrillas appeared willing to make one exception, as a token of their commitment to the new peace effort.

A decision to build a bridge spanning the Torola river was the most concrete result of the first talks, in October, between the US-backed government and guerrilla leaders. The government agreed to lay a bridge over the river and the guerrillas agreed not to destroy it. The river, which runs from east to west across the mountainous northern province of Morazan, has been an unofficial border between army and guerrilla-controlled territory for most of the civil war.

The bridge had been imported by the army from Britain two years ago. An engineer at the construction site described it as a "refined, more resistant version of the Bailey bridge, a simple design developed during the Second World War. Since early 1981 the only way across the Torola river had been through it. Remains of the original

bridge and its first Bailey replacement, destroyed by the guerrillas, lie rusting in the river bed. A bridge is vital for the war-battered province's subsistence economy and the new one had become a symbol of the local people's hopes for the future. "While the bridge stands there's a chance for peace," said one construction worker. "The minute it goes, you'll know the war is going on till the bitter end."

In Meanguera, just north of the river, there has been no electricity since 1981, when a thousand families lived there. Now there are only 18 families, 14 of which have arrived since the first peace talks. Mortar shells have made holes in the roofs. Bullet holes mark the walls. Most of Meanguera's original inhabitants now live in appalling squalor in refugee camps to the south, where an fierce bombardment has driven the few and the fighting less intense. A 52-year-old man who had just brought his family back after three years said he decided to return home when he heard the bridge was to be built.

"A lot of people in the refugee camps are packing their bags and

getting ready to come back", said the man, cheerful in the bright heat of the town square. "The bridge means work. It also means the guerrillas and the army are humanizing the way."

The day before the bridge was due to be opened something happened to show how wishful were the people's expectations of peace. Shots rang out. The crackle of automatic rifle fire was followed, in familiar escalation, by bursts of machinegun

fire and then the thud-thud of exploding mortar shells.

A lorry full of soldiers had driven up to the bridge and guerrilla look-outs across the river had opened fire, initiating a 20-minute battle. By thoughtlessness or design, the accord had been broken.

Fortunately our tramps and beggars have been saved by a singular literary tradition which has constantly reminded us of the value of solitude, and of the natural right of every individual to be unhappy in his own particular way. Beckett - perhaps the greatest defender of the validity of tramping - saw, the danger over a quarter of a century ago.

Phillip Whitehead

A tax to channel the BBC's way

It is licence fee time again. Not since the late George Howard took over St Paul's Cathedral to give thanks for the BBC's 60 glorious years have we heard such hosannas to public service broadcasting. The BBC is skilled in these matters. A rise in the licence fee from £46 to £65 is emolumentally described as still below the level of inflation in real terms. Wealthy politicians and cheerful professors pronounce the higher fee a snip, real value for money. (You can say the same, of course, of Rolls-Royces). The plans unveiled speak of modest expansion all round. Nothing is to be curtailed, or abandoned. The Consumers' Association survey is quoted to demonstrate that the public are willing, nay eager, to pay up to £75 for the service they want.

The opposition groups around another standard. Why increase a spectacularly regressive tax, if some of the services to be provided can be charged to the market? The Prime Minister has shown her unerring populist instinct in letting it be known that she has no objection to advertising on the BBC to supplement an increase in line with inflation rather than the BBC's ingenious formula "broadcasting inflation". Others clamour for advertising for reasons of their own.

The agencies want it because they could then smash the ITV advertising monopoly, and shrink the rate servants from the arena altogether is therefore a much more radical step than it might appear.

It might be asked whether the boards are still necessary. The question is guaranteed to make any dairy farmer shudder. For him they are his sole protection against being exposed to a repetition of the 1930s when the dairy firms restlessly drove prices down and forced farmers into bankruptcy.

The alternative might be the kind of large producer cooperatives which exist in northern France. But this would immediately create an imbalance between those near large centres of population and those, as in west Wales for example, remote from their markets. One thing to be said for the boards' monopoly is that farmers large and small, wherever they are, receive a uniform guaranteed price.

There is no right or indeed possibility of peaceful political opposition (no one knows how many people are imprisoned in the Chinese Gulag, though they certainly include the contributors to the hand-written newspapers on the famous "Wall of Democracy" that flourished so briefly a few years ago). There is no system of independent justice or of a right to trial, there is no assumption of innocence for any accused person, there is no freedom from secret arrest and imprisonment, there is no liberty of writing or publishing or speaking, there is no artistic freedom, there are no trade unions, there is no freedom of movement about China or from directed labour, there is no right to leave the country, and while we are about it, I may as well mention that there is no right for consenting adults to practise homosexuality in private.

It may be argued that all the political freedoms will follow on the heels of the economic ones; indeed, it will be so argued, by those who are not quite brazen enough to argue that the political freedoms already exist. We have been hearing that claim from South Africa's apologists for years, and there is still no sign of it actually happening. And in any case, there is no sign in China that more than the most limited freedom even of economic freedom is being contemplated.

If a man is chastising you with scorpions, and then abandons the scorpions for whips, you will experience some slight relief. But you would be rather overdoing things if you felt a great rush of gratitude to your tormentor and thanked him most warmly. It is good that a tiny crack of sense has opened in the wall of nonsense that has hitherto surrounded China's economic way of life, not only under Mao but also under Deng. But it is so far only a crack, and even if it should develop into a massive fissure it will mean nothing to the Chinese other than that they may in time become less poor. It is good to be less poor; it is better to be more free. When Deng Xiaoping announces that free freedom is to be permitted to the Chinese, and makes good his claim, I shall believe that something fundamental has changed there.

I can wait.

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advertising revenue. The more you have to make, the more they will make you dependent upon it.

In Britain the principle that broadcasting outlets should not have to compete for the same source of funds would be abandoned when the first jingle sold the first soapflake on Radio 1. The problem for the BBC is that it has already sold the pass on the inviolable - licence fee by proposing supplementary charges for the satellite service which it over ambitiously sought to provide.

The BBC is doing too much, because it believes it must do everything. As broadcasting goes it is not notorious for inefficiency but the new dependencies have brought a strain to management as well as to its finances, and to production quality most of all. Sooner or later the BBC government will have to look at the present staff malaise, which is not just a matter of money. The moment may come all the sooner if the BBC is told that it can only have a £10 increase in the licence, with the poisoned chalice of advertising offered as well. There are those in the Corporation who would seize it.

I hope the governors will ask themselves if the BBC really needs to be majority holder in satellite broadcasting, dominant in local radio, controller of all national radio and over half of national television. Is this the moment when self-government might come to the constituent parts of this broadcasting empire? Might radio now be separated from television, with its own licence fee, and a new editorial voice and thrust for technical innovation? Should other activities, like local radio, be kept within the remit of a national corporation, even a separate one?

If the requested licence fee increase to finance "modest" expansion across the board is not forthcoming, these questions will have to be faced. Then the pluralist case for public service broadcasting can raise its head, and the defenders of the redistributive principle can speak out. Imported videos, ultimately parasitic upon broadcasting and the cinema, are to our time what the colour television set was to the 1960s. A sales tax upon them, channelled to broadcasting, would enrich the stream which they later divert, as critics of the Films Bill have been quick to point out.

This could be a time for diversity and richness in public service broadcasting. A debate about the licence fee, conducted solely between the Corporation's irredentists and the advertising lobby, does not begin to match the issues involved.

The author was Labour MP for Derby North 1970-83.

Roger Scruton

In mourning for an empty barrel

Edward McKenzie, a tramp who lived in a barrel on a rubbish tip, was befriended by Mr Robert Lenkiewicz who called him, in recognition of his singular habits, Diogenes. Mr McKenzie died six weeks ago at the age of 72. His friend, who is a painter, conceived the plan of embalming him, coating him in acrylic, and displaying him naked in his library, where he would perform the function of "a large paperweight".

Mr Lenkiewicz's proposal has met with strong opposition from P.M. mouth council, which holds itself bound to dispose of bodies according to the statutory requirements of public welfare, and which has therefore threatened Mr Lenkiewicz with legal action under the Public Health Act, 1984. I assume that Mr McKenzie left no instructions in the matter. How, then, should his remains be treated? To whom (if anyone) does the duty of disposal belong?

A human corpse is the relic of a human person, and heir to the rights and privileges of the living body. To understand the predicament of Mr McKenzie's corpse, therefore, we should understand the life to which it testifies. In retrospect a human life is like a nation, which we honour at last by conferring dignities and titles on its harmless remainder. For what, then, was Mr McKenzie covertly petitioning in his barrel, and who has the duty to honour him?

It is a measure of the freedom enjoyed by the British citizen that he may still live as a tramp. Over vast areas of the globe a person who decided to live in a barrel would be instantly suspect, accused of "parasitism", and placed behind barbed wire. For a long time after the invention of the welfare state, good British citizens wondered whether beggars, busters, tramps and drop-outs were still permissible. Should they not be taken into "care"? Should not the state take these people from their misery? "Yes," said the bourgeois conscience, and for a long time "yes" was the received idea.

Fortunately our tramps and beggars have been saved by a singular literary tradition which has constantly reminded us of the value of solitude, and of the natural right of every individual to be unhappy in his own particular way. Beckett - perhaps the greatest defender of the validity of tramping - saw, the danger over a quarter of a century ago.

Let me tell you this, when social workers offer you, free gratis and for nothing, something to hinder you from swooning, which wish them is an obsession, it is useless to recoil; they will pursue you to the ends of the earth, the voluntary in their hands. The Salvation Army is no better. Against the charitable gesture

there is no defence, that I know of."

It seems, however, that Mr McKenzie had found such a defence. Safe in his barrel, in surroundings that no health inspector would willingly penetrate, he saw the welfare state and its work of abject conformity steadily recede from him. There, in that haven of solitude, Mr McKenzie was free at last to fulfil the most basic human need: the need for a personal unhappiness. And there he discovered a companionship, precious state to which sorrow disposes us, and which has no real place in the great project of universal welfare.

Mr McKenzie's companion is surely, therefore, his true executor, and what better discharge of unspoken obligations than to preserve his corpse in defiance of the requirements of public policy? As a vanished paperweight Mr McKenzie would be honoured and vindicated: as the occupant of a council grave he will testify only to the final triumph of the system against which he so heroically defended himself.

Against the literary tradition that upholds the rights of Mr McKenzie, however, there stands another that denies them: the tradition of utilitarianism, which has effectively neutralized the official conscience throughout the English-speaking world. Mr McKenzie's corpse, the utilitarian will tell us, should be disposed of according to the general requirements of human welfare, after the interests of all have been duly weighed.

That way of thinking - which abolishes not only Mr McKenzie's rights but also those of everyone who stands in the path of welfare - is the natural enemy of human dignity. If we take it seriously then nothing is sacred. In the interests of public health and welfare the dead should be seized by the authorities at the very moment of their death, and recycled in the form of sausages and pies.

The inventor of the public morality of utilitarianism was granted a privilege that his successors would deny to Mr McKenzie. In a cupboard in University College, London, sits the corpse of Jeremy Bentham, embalmed, varnished, and surmounted by a waxen head. On special occasions he is wheeled out to contribute once again to the vain calculation of the profit and the loss.

Contemplating those soft, compliant features, one cannot help thinking how much better Bentham would have looked, and how much less damage would he have done to human life and institutions, had he spent his life on a rubbish dump, sheltered by nothing more indulgent than a barrel.

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INDIAN WINTER

By any standards, watching India practise its democracy presents an impressive and awesome spectacle. With less than a week to go before two days of voting over Christmas, the whole country is in the grip of electioneering already, with nearly 5,000 candidates from more than a dozen main parties traversing the sub continent and trailing many more than a dozen political promises for the millions of votes they need.

And by any standards India's example is unarguable evidence that a free and fair vote can be held in a Third World state. Yet that practice and that example aside, what worries many Indians is that this exercise might also be a demonstration that elections will not necessarily change anything.

India needs change. Its need has never been greater. In Europe, 1984 has produced its problems, but it has produced for India the worst year since independence. Before the election campaigning started, it had already witnessed the cold-blooded killing of hundreds of Hindus by Sikh terrorists, the storming of the Golden Temple, the resulting deaths of more than a thousand soldiers and militant Sikhs, the assassination of Mrs Gandhi and the subsequent communal madness that shook the north. Each event led inexorably to the next, culminating in the bitter alienation of the Sikh community. This month the tragedy in Bhopal was added to that list.

What this catalogue clearly suggests is that the state of India is beginning to crack open and that the fissures run deep. The

rise of unchecked religious fundamentalism has cut at the roots of its secular identity. Haphazard economic policies and regulations have retarded development whilst encouraging bribery and inefficiency. Worst of all, the conversion of the once ennobling party system into a cabal of corrupt men has left the country prey to the exploitation of politicians who are not above using its rifts for their own mercenary ends. Only swift and far-reaching changes in the character of India's covenants can heal these wounds.

It was against this backdrop that elections were announced last month. At once they appeared to offer the possibility of a fresh start. An era had ended with Mrs Gandhi, a new dawn would therefore be around the corner. That at least was the hope but as the campaigning has progressed, the performance of India's aspiring politicians suggests that the turning point is being missed and that the country is destined to continue on the old crooked road. This now seems to be the reality. So where does the fault lie?

Perhaps the first disappointment is with the new prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi. Much had been expected of his youthful age, his newness and his vaunted desire to drag India into the twenty first century. In the wake of his mother's murder he could have attempted and got away with almost anything. But, instead of cleansing his party of the inefficient and corrupt he has merely whitewashed it. A few have been dropped but many are retained. Meanwhile, his election rhetoric feeds off the prevalent

insecurities of India, exciting fears of potential domestic and external threats, while ignoring the real sectarian splits that divide the country. So whereas Rajiv Gandhi was to have been the beacon of a better tomorrow, he seems instead to have become the channel for the continuation of the past.

For their part, the opposition are once more betraying whatever hopes were invested in them. Since 1980 they have promised and failed to unify their splintered ranks. Now, with Mrs Gandhi's death, they were faced with a make or break situation. Events could have galvanised them into a credible alliance. If they had succeeded in moulding one, they could possibly have been on the path to victory. But they are not and the chance of real change that would have represented has been lost. Instead the individual ambition of selfish old men has yet again triumphed over the needs of the nation each of them so desperately wants to govern.

It is therefore a sombre and passionless India that is readying itself to vote. Sensing this, politicians of every hue are jumping aboard the Bhopal bandwagon, outbidding each other in their expressions of sympathy. Once more a tragedy is being diverted for a political gain. But it is too little, because the Indian voter has already seen through these over-used shenanigans, and too late because the damage to Indian politics, like the devastation in Bhopal, has already been done and the opportunity to reverse it is slipping away.

MR CORBYN'S GAFFE

Anyone who shares the moral sensibility of the vast majority of British citizens will despise and condemn the action of Mr Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour MP for Islington, in inviting two convicted terrorists associated with the IRA to the House of Commons. Mr Michael Cocks, Labour's Chief Whip, voiced the common opinion inside and outside Parliament when he said yesterday that he was "appalled and shocked" by what Mr Corbyn had done. The fact that the visit took place only six weeks after the murders by bombing at the Conservative Party Conference did no more than illuminate the insensitivity of an invitation which would have been reprehensible whenever it was issued. Mr Corbyn, who has publicly declared his support for Sinn Féin (an organization whose "Troops Out" demonstration he has assisted in London) has declared that he "can see no reason why a representative (of the movement) should not visit the House of Commons". If he cannot see that now, there is very little that anyone else can do to give him the required moral vision.

This said, however, there appears to be little in the incident which raises new security considerations at Westminster. Mr Corbyn's two visitors, Mr Gerard McLoughlin, who has served a gaol sentence in England for conspiracy to cause explosions, and Miss Linda

Quigley, who was imprisoned for bomb and firearm offences in Ulster, both passed through the electronic scanning machines on entering the Palace of Westminster, as every visitor now must. Beyond the Central Lobby, moreover, a visitor has to be escorted by a Member of Parliament, as were Mr McLoughlin and Miss Quigley. It is true that a general member of the public who, having reached the Central Lobby, declares that he wishes to visit the public seats in one of the Committee rooms (where, say, a Bill is in progress) can be directed to it unaccompanied. But he or she has to pass successive police points on the way at which he is funnelled in the right direction.

It would, however, be quite impractical (even if it were politically desirable, which it is not) to debate certain categories of people from the House of Commons since admission to the public gallery rightly takes no account of the opinions and reputations of visitors, but only on their behaviour on the premises. How, indeed, could it be otherwise so long as the public galleries are genuinely galleries for the public? Moreover, over 700,000 visitors a year come to the Houses of Parliament, to galleries, committees, functions and so on, and it is valuable that they should do so. Over recent decades, the formerly relaxed intercourse

between people in public life and members of the public has, alas, had to be constrained. We now have to live with passes, barriers and scanners because of terrorist threats. But it is important that security, as well as being adequate, should not be more constraining than is necessary. There is no reason for it to be tighter than it is at Westminster if Members and others there behave responsibly.

As for Mr Corbyn, he can be left to the moral judgment of his peers in Parliament. To say that he should not have invited these two persons to Westminster is not to suggest any bar on convicted felons who have served their sentences and expiated their offence. It is merely a recognition of the folly of bringing to Westminster people who have had connection with an organization dedicated to its struggle against parliamentary democracy by murder and the bomb, and who have not given any sign of changing their opinions. It is on this point that Mr Corbyn will be found wanting by MPs of all parties, but there is nothing they can do about it. The only people empowered to do anything are those who have the responsibility of selecting and electing him to Parliament. It would be democratically reassuring if they remembered this incident when Mr Corbyn's tenure next comes before them.

A BREATHING SPACE FOR THE ARTS

The health of the living arts in Britain has long ago ceased, in the public and political consciousness, to be measured in terms of number of new plays put on the boards or tonnage of new sculpture unveiled. The vital figure is the one announced by the Government yesterday: the level at which the Arts Council's grant is to be set for the coming year. If the grant rises by more than the current rate of inflation (as is again the case this year), then the arts are in a thriving condition; if it falls to, then the hosts of the Philistines are held to have overrun the land. It is a reductive mode of assessment, dictated by a method of financing which guarantees a constant whine of dissatisfaction from lobbyists, aggrieved at the Government and at one another. Ministers for the Arts and Chairmen of the Arts Council soon discover, like Ministers of Health, that all they ever find themselves talking about is money.

After the Minister's Christmas announcement, the Arts Council broods until springtime on how to allocate its grant to its numerous and plaintive charges. The haggling of special-interests is tiresome and somewhat factitious, but doubtless the hubbub in the antechamber of the Medici was no more edifying: the business of patronage necessarily implies the clash of rival claims and gnashing of teeth among the disappointed. Artists naturally resent finding their fortunes dependent on the cold judge-

ment of bureaucrats, and yearn for syndicalism: but one can count on it that they would find themselves at least as resentful of the warm judgements of fellow-artists.

As the new leadership of the Arts Council have quickly found, a bureaucratic largesse is circumscribed by greater constraints than the dispensations of aristocratic patrons were. The arts in general, and individual enterprises in particular, can increasingly count on a vocal constituency of supporters, ensuring that no company of strolling players will simply pack up their props and stroll away without protest if dismissed.

This is not unhealthy, though it may be frustrating, especially in connection with the council's proclaimed strategy of shifting its patronage away from London to the provinces. The strategy is correct in the long run, and indeed is only a continuation of a trend pursued since its earliest days. But it is not good policy to endanger successful existing enterprises to promote the hypothetical achievements of untied ones before hypothetical audiences. A steady pace is better than a dash at all costs.

It must be tempting for a government with predispositions like the present one to conclude that the lobbyists' claims could be better sorted out in the market-place rather than in the corridors of power. In fact it has been wisely pragmatic in accepting that a measure of subsidy is

essential to the arts, whose product at the innovative end has historically proved too fragile often to thrive in the market-place. Direct state subsidy in Britain is exceptionally low among developed countries (in France it is five times higher, per capita, and even in the USA it is twice as high). Indirect earnings through tourism and cultural exports make it good policy not to clip the wings of the arts more closely.

In the last ten years business sponsorship in Britain has risen markedly, and the Government's enlightened incentives scheme may help to revive a growth which has shown some signs of flagging. But the sharpest difference between Britain and the USA in this area is in the level of individual support, through subscriptions and friends' associations. The difference is directly related to the very large tax incentives provided in the USA for activity of this kind. The government there unlike ours foregoes in tax far more than it contributes directly in subsidies to the arts. But in our system, already overburdened with distortions, a very strong case would have to be made out to justify movement in that direction - and also guarantees, unlikely to be forthcoming, that any additional rewards won by the arts from the public would not be clawed back through cuts in the level of direct subsidy, already so small in international terms.

Wider national interest at Stansted

From the Chairman of British Caledonian Airways

Sir, Any reading of the newspapers over the last two days could lead one to the conclusion that the debate about the national airports policy is concerned principally with the protection of the countryside and environmental issues, mainly connected with aircraft noise.

The inspector, Mr Graham Eyre, has dealt with both these issues in his report. He recognised the problem but has argued that the environmental issues are not sufficient to justify the rejection of expansion at Stansted.

There are other issues which, in the national context, are very much more important which have also been addressed by Mr Eyre. It is perhaps necessary to remind your readers of these issues so that the debate about future airports policy does take into account the issues that are important to the nation.

First, air transport is a thriving and growing industry in Britain. Recent growth has been rapid and substantial further growth is predicted. The industry has an excellent record both in employment and creating new jobs. It also has an excellent record in earning foreign currency and in bringing to this country large numbers of foreign visitors who have materially benefited our balance of trade.

For the industry to continue this excellent record, and in particular for it to create substantial numbers of new jobs in the future, there needs to be adequate airport capacity throughout Britain but particularly in the South-east. The inspector has identified very clearly when existing airport resources will be exhausted even if the arbitrary limit of air transport movements at Heathrow is relaxed.

Second, some papers suggest that development of airports in the Midlands, the North, and in Scotland can in some way replace the development of further facilities in the South-east. Airports away from the South-east are all developing strongly, not just because there is a political will for them to develop but because there is a strong demand for air transport which is being met by the development policies of those airports.

All the projections are that the growth of both scheduled and charter services at airports away from the South-east will continue. It will be necessary for those airports to be developed - and BCal strongly supports this principle - but in no way should this further development reduce the capacity requirements in the South-east. Both can and should be met.

Third, and most important, in the newspapers there appears to have

been no reference to the interests of the customer. It has been a fundamental feature of Government policy that more attention should be paid to the needs of the customer in all sectors of commerce. The inspector has again considered the needs of the customer and he has found that these needs are best met by the provision of substantially more airport capacity for London and the South-east.

If we want those customers to use British airlines and British airports there is no option but to provide for airport capacity in the area of the country to which they wish to fly, and that is the London area. If this is not done the customer will elect to fly to another capital like Paris or Amsterdam.

Any decision which does not favour development of airport capacity in the South-east over the next fifteen years will be a decision which ignores the interests of the customer and ignores the opportunity for the air transport industry to create jobs and earn more foreign currency. In what way could such a decision be consistent with any Government policy objective?

Yours faithfully,
ADAM THOMSON, Chairman,
British Caledonian Airways Ltd,
Caledonian House,
Crawley, West Sussex,
December 12.

From Mr James Boyes
Sir, Your leader today, "Stansted can wait" (December 11), calls for an urgent response.

"All logic cries out for the fifth terminal" (at Heathrow), says the leader. What logic? Hundreds of thousands of west Londoners have suffered for years from the noise disturbance of Heathrow and from the often intolerable traffic congestion which this vast airport incurs.

A fourth terminal is in process of construction. A fifth terminal could be only a triumph of expediency over every conceivable environmental consideration.

The equation is simple. On the one hand, the interests of a relatively few, very vocal and, one suspects, predominantly middle-class dwellers around Stansted who have never suffered any real inconvenience; on the other hand, hundreds of thousands of west Londoners who have already suffered years of discomfort from Heathrow.

Should not the good people of Essex, a great many of whom commute daily to London, take some small share?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BOYES,
12 Linver Road,
Parsons Green, SW6,
December 11.

Dartford Tunnel

From the Chairman of the Dartford Tunnel Joint Committee

Sir, Mr Nicholson's letter (December 3) raises an important point when he talks about traffic congestion at Dartford Tunnel negating the benefits of the M25.

Essex and Kent county councils, which are jointly responsible for the tunnel, have been anxious to ensure that the river crossing does not cause a bottleneck on this important orbital route and were able to build the second tube a few years ago without any financial contribution from either their ratepayers or taxpayers.

Mr Nicholson rightly identifies the toll collection as the primary cause of present delays at the tunnel although I would require convincing that the frequency and degree of congestion are such as to cause the return of through traffic back into central areas like Highbury.

The councils are using Government money to double the number of tollbooths and these will be able

to cope with the increased traffic using the crossing as the rest of the M25 comes on stream.

However, what cannot easily be improved is the capacity of the tunnels themselves to cope with future levels of motorway traffic and I am afraid that Mr Nicholson's plea for the immediate abolition would, by the attraction of even more traffic, only bring forward the time when serious congestion could be a regular feature of conditions at the tunnel.

The councils have been pressing the Department of Transport for some time now to undertake an urgent study of the need to provide additional cross-river capacity and I would hope that the debate on tolls is not allowed to cloud the real issue.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT DANIELS, Chairman,
Dartford Tunnel Joint Committee,
Tunnel Offices,
South Orbital Way,
Dartford,
Kent,
December 7.

British Council cuts

From Mr G. H. Jackson

Sir, The public is very properly concerned at the erosion of the structure of rural society in many developing countries - part of the desperate problems facing them in the struggle for life of primarily rural communities.

Charitable and international aid organizations are grappling with immediate situations, but in the longer run it is through the development of the individual skills and knowledge of the people in those countries that the best prospects for progress lie.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England has been concerned in this field of activity within United Kingdom agriculture for almost 150 years and in co-operation with others is increasingly involved in similar work overseas.

We receive in our work great help and collaboration from the British Council and over the years have been impressed with the sensitivity, perception and effectiveness of the council as an organization. In the agricultural field of activity the

council is a model which other organizations could well emulate.

It is entirely right and proper that government should, from time to time, review funding priorities for overseas as well as United Kingdom activity. It is to be hoped, however, that the British Council which, along with others, has suffered quite substantial cuts in the latest review will be given appropriately high priority for funding. It promotes the British interest to the world in a unique way and for a country which depends so much on the export of its goods and technology the investment is wholly worth while. The council has done much to build necessary bridges between Britain and the cultures of North and South.

In the fast-changing world in which we live, where the headlines of the morning can be memories by the evening, it is all too easy to forget the need for old bridges to be maintained and new ones built.

Yours sincerely,
G. H. JACKSON,
Agricultural Director,
Royal Agricultural Society of England,
Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

Risks of vapour drift

From Mr Nigel Dudley

Sir, Frank Perring's letter (December 10) raises the issue of pesticide vapour drift and its hazard to wildlife. The evaporation of volatile pesticides from a crop, and the even greater risk of spray drift during application of any agro-chemical, are also of concern to farmers and market gardeners.

Every year growers lose crops because of pesticide drift from neighbouring land and costs running into tens of thousands of pounds are not uncommon.

The new regulations in the Food and Environment Protection Bill, currently passing through the House of Lords, should stipulate that spray equipment is registered and include provisions for spot checks and fines for faulty machinery to reduce the proportion of unsafe sprayers in operation.

It should also legislate that accurate records of spraying are kept, so that the source of drift damage is more easily traceable. At present it can take up to seven years for a grower to get compensation, even if the source of damage is proved.

Spray and vapour drift is particularly important to the growing number of organic farmers, whose customers are specifically seeking food free of any chemical residue, either through personal choice or because of specific allergy problems. As long as the careless approach to application is allowed to continue, it is virtually impossible to give them this option.

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL DUDLEY,
Soil Association Ltd,
Walnut Tree Manor,
Hagley,
Stowmarket,
Suffolk,
December 10.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Monetary returns on a film levy

From the Chairman Goldcrest Films and Television Limited

Sir, I do not disagree with many of the points made by Mr David Plowright (December 12) representing the Independent Television Companies Association. However, he speaks as if the proposed future film levy would be an onerous burden on ITV. This is not the case. Perhaps a few facts would be useful.

It is difficult to know precisely how much ITV pays for its films. We at Goldcrest estimate that the ITV system shows about 360 films a year, that is, approximately one for each day. Of these films about 90 are so-called "first-run films", that is, they are being shown for the first time, and of these films about 10 per cent are British.

We estimate that ITV pays around £250,000 for each first-run film and therefore let us assume that the total film purchases of the ITV system are around £25 million.

A small levy, say, 5 per cent would be £1.25 million. It is arguable whether this would be a cost to the broadcasters or would in effect become a cost to the producers. Even if the full cost fell to the producers, which I very much doubt, then the net cost after the ITV levy and tax to the ITV system would be about £250,000, and hence the average ITV company would suffer a penalty of only £25,000 after tax. It hardly seems worth fighting a major battle over such a paltry sum. There are much more serious issues facing ITV.

Despite the small cost to the broadcasters, the effect on British producers could be significant if the £1.25 million levy were redistributed to the 10 per cent of films that were British; then the additional revenue from television would be raised by £120,000 or by 50 per cent on average. This would be particularly significant for the low-budget British

subject film which has always been the most problematic category. Yours faithfully,
J. G. LEE,
Chairman and Chief Executive,
Goldcrest Films and Television Limited,
51 Holland Street, Kensington, W8.

From Mr Michael White
Sir, I have just finished reading David Plowright's letter to you attacking a proposed levy on films on television when the Christmas issue of the TV Times and Radio Times arrived.

There are over 120 films being shown on television over the Christmas and new year period, which averages over eight films a day. It is therefore hardly surprising that film makers are arguing for a levy, especially as cinema-going is suffering a further decline.

Even with the munificence of Channel 4 it is extremely difficult to finance films in this country and the average amount of money paid for a film by the television companies is barely enough to make a short. This, coupled with the decline in cinema-going, leaves the film producer in a serious position, to the detriment of the British film industry.

It is somewhat ironic that Mr Plowright uses the films *Gandhi* and *Chariots of Fire* to illustrate the strength of the British film industry as, without foreign money, perhaps neither of these films would have been made. It is no secret that *Gandhi* took well over 10 years to finance.

The introduction of a levy on films transmitted on television would be instrumental in maintaining the existence of the film industry in this country.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WHITE,
Michael White Limited,
13 Duke Street, St James's, SW1.

Schoolgirl promiscuity

From Mrs Victoria Gillick

Sir, It was with a depressing sense of déjà vu that I read the letter (December 10) by eight women journalists of the Mirror Group Newspapers as they expounded their now well-known solution to the growing social and medical problem of schoolgirl promiscuity.

It was in the early sixties, as a college student, that I first became aware that our parents were being publicly vilified in the press, television and films as "squares" and out of touch with the new swinging era of sexual liberation that had begun to mesmerize and engulf the younger generation with the mindless and self-indulgent chorus of "we're doing our own thing".

Now, 20 years on, these same ardent, if ageing, "lily the pinkies" in the world of female journalism are to be seen hard at work again, promoting this dangerous philosophy to schoolchildren. By appealing to their basic appetites, they are training them to become good, unquestioning consumers in this

new, lucrative, child-centred sexual market.

Their present attempt to mask these endeavours by terms of supposed "compassion", cannot exempt them from the literary past their consistent efforts in this respect.

Everyone must surely know that all under-age girls are "vulnerable"; and all will become "disadvantaged" once promiscuity and disease rob them of their youth and their educational chances. Hence the law that protects them from sexual harassment whilst they are still under school-leaving age.

As a parent of young teenage children myself, living in a less than perfect world, I am continually aware that this steady erosion of the status quo, by those who still cling to the discredited fashion of a foolhardy era, is making the survival of the family as a cohesive unit well nigh impossible.

Yours faithfully,
VICTORIA GILICK,
101 Market,
Wishbech,
Cambridgeshire,
December 10.

Dubious images

From Mr Philip Venning

Sir, The long programme of conserving the magnificent west front of Wells Cathedral is nearly over. Sadly one of the final acts will be a piece of senseless, determined and destructive meddling with what is generally agreed to be one of the finest collections of medieval figure sculpture anywhere. Plans are now far advanced to add new and historically questionable statues to the most prominent position in the whole assembly. This is being done without any consultation at public consultation. A work of art of the first importance is now at risk.

Crowning the west front is a central gable, consisting of three niches flanked by quatrefoils. Until recently the principal niche contained the lower part of an original figure of Christ in Majesty, the top having been lost in antiquity. The other niches and quatrefoils have been empty since records began.

In the fund-raising appeal it was announced that the remnants of the Christ statue would be replaced by a new carving "in the same spirit" as the original. This new statue is virtually finished. In addition the sculptor, Mr David Wynne, has also been commissioned to produce two

six-winged seraphim to be placed in the niches adjoining the new Christ.

While we recognize that there is an artistic and theological argument for a more positive representation of Christ, we would nevertheless have preferred to have seen the medieval sculpture, battered and fragmented though it is, conserved in situ. New carving, however inspired and skilled the sculpture, is at best a crude substitute, at worst what Morris called "a feeble and lifeless forgery".

Even more worrying is the proposal for the flanking angels. The evidence that the niches ever contained sculpture is debatable; the identity of what it might have been firmly in the realms of scholarly speculation. Even at this late stage there seems to be confusion about the correct iconography. The result, however well-intentioned, can only be guesswork.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP VENNING, Secretary,
The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,
37 Spital Square, E1.

Lest we forget

From Mrs R. Palliser

Sir, Mr Eykyn (December 11) has been sadly misinformed. The flame on the Theodor-Huuss-Platz in West Berlin is not meant to be eternal. That particular flame was meant to burn only until the two Germanies were reunited.

Now, with the realisation that this is unlikely ever to come about, the flame still has to remain because of the outcry its extinguishing would cause, and so it burns up millions of DM-worth of gas in a useless gesture.

The soil collected from the concentration camps "rests" in the Ploetzsee Memorial, in West Berlin.

Yours faithfully,
R. PALLISER,
Cosy Nook,
Salisbury Road,
Hoddesdon,
Hertfordshire,
December 11.

Age of chivalry

From Mrs Alma Dax

Sir, The other day I took the Tube at Knightsbridge and, as the compartment was full, I stood. To my surprise a Chelsea pensioner in his scarlet uniform got up and insisted I took his seat, saying: "It will do you good to sit down".

You would have thought that at the sight of this gentleman getting up for me everyone would have stood up, but no one stirred and the gallant gentleman stood.

I may add I am 91 and disabled! Yours sincerely,
ALMA DAX,
48 Knightsbridge Court,
Sloane Street, SW1,
December 8.

THE ARTS

Galleries

Bubbling good humour

Art into Production
Museum of Modern Art, Oxford

Artists Design for Dance
Arnolfini, Bristol

Spindler 1900
Reading Museum and Art Gallery

Art Nouveau from the Anderson Collection
Geffrye Museum

The Parian Phenomenon
Chelsea Town Hall

It is a good time for lovers of the applied and decorative arts at the moment - especially if they are willing to travel a bit outside London. And anyone who tends to bristle snobbishly at the notion of anything less than "fine art" should persuade himself to unbuckle, since two of the three major new shows within quite easy reach of London contain work in slightly uncustomised media by artists so unapologetically fine that no one could easily look down on them.

Like Malevich in Art into Production, the absolutely extraordinary, neo-on-any-account-to-be-missed show of Soviet textiles, fashion and ceramics 1917-1935 at Oxford's Museum of Modern Art until February 3. The period, of course, is that of the great conflagration of revolutionary art and design which immediately followed Russia's political revolution and was damped down, if not totally extinguished, by the return to traditionalism, socialist realism and art-for-the-people around 1930. In fact almost everything here dates from the Twenties and the handful of pieces from after 1930, like the attributed table service *The Harvest*, of 1932-33, do show a falling-away into boring conventionalism compared with what was being done ten years earlier.

But otherwise you could hardly ask for anything brighter.

livelier, more inventive and wholly desirable than the pots and stuffs in this show. Even when the titles and subject-matter of the designs sound like a parody of respectable socialist art, the sense of vivid post-Diaghilev colour and the sheer bubbling good humour captivate. What would you expect of a ceramic tray entitled *The Revolution Tears Away the Cobwebs of Prejudice*? Almost anything, I would guess, other than Maria Vasilevna Lebedeva's whimsical brick-coloured winged whale(?) flapping through the clouds as it cheerily munches away at a very gilly web across its path. Even Malevich's severe white teaset charms with its very literal "half-cup": one wonders which came first, this or the seaside souvenir fantasy on the same theme.

And, if you are talking about art-for-the-people, what could be more truly popular and approachable than these pots, what more jolly to wear than these happily garish fabrics? Certainly they use, with the greatest ease and fluency, the language of post-cubist art, but it is so convincingly associated with Russian folk motifs or carpey humour that no one surely could take offence unless directed to do so. The wonder is that so much of this until very recently frowned-on art still survives in Russia (the materials of the show come straight from Russia and it may well go back as a show for Moscow too), but then the Russians, as we know, never throw anything away, just in case, very likely they even have Stalin himself in cold storage, should his presence ever again be required in the mausoleum on Red Square. And thank heavens for this spirit of good housekeeping, for western design today still has as much to learn from these tearaways of half a century ago as does design in Russia itself.

Also at MOMA-Oxford until February 3 are shows devoted to *Duane Michals*'s eccentric photo-stories and penetrating portraits, funny-peculiar and funny-ha-ha, and to *Peter Greenham*'s paintings, which are all we mean, good and bad, by "academic": tasteful, accomplished and deeply unexciting. A couple of those Russian revolutionaries turn up again in *Artists Design for Dance*, at the Arnolfini, Bristol, until January 13. The likes of Alexandra Exter are in fact there in support of more recent, mostly British, essays in dance design by such

current artists as Bridget Riley, John Hubbard, Richard Smith, Deanna Petherbridge and, naturally, David Hockney. It is tempting to say that the historical precedents upstairs rather undermine the effect of the recent works below, evidently artists like Michael Ayton (*Le Festin de l'araignée*), John Piper (*Job*), Edward Burra (*Miracle in the Gorbals*) and McKnight Kauffer (*Checkmate*), not to mention the old Russian pros like Benois, Larionov, Goncharova, Exter and, later, Wakhevich, were really designing for the ballet, whereas on the whole one gets the impression that the newer generation have been commissioned merely to do their usual thing while dancers dance in front of it or, in the case of sculptors like Nigel Hall or Heinz-Dieter Pietsch, on top of or underneath it.

This is not entirely true: Bridget Riley's works seem to have actually inspired an intense and enlivening collaboration between designer and choreographer, and one or two artists have proved to possess a hitherto unrevealed skill at theatrics: Christopher Lebrun, with his vaguely baroque leanings, one might expect to take up where Eugene Berman left off, but it is genuinely surprising how well Deanna Petherbridge's rather sinister architectural fantasies take to the stage. And Hockney, who is represented by designs for Ashton's *Varis capricci*, immediately inscribes himself in the long and respectable alternative tradition, so well illustrated upstairs, by taking stage design as a separate discipline, with its own rules and desiderata, coolly mastering them all.

The name of Charles Spindler, handsomely commemorated at Reading Museum and Art Gallery until January 19, is probably not instantly familiar even to connoisseurs of the Art Nouveau and its period. Being an Alsatian (born 1865; died 1938), he inevitably fell between the artistic stools of France and Germany, never to be decisively claimed by either. And the style of his furniture shows this division - or rather, this very personal fusion: delicate marquetry pictures in the manner favoured by Gallé and other Nancy artists are inserted into decidedly hefty and Germanic pieces of furniture, and some of the examples on show, such as the several variations on the small stool with a vaguely triangular back



As inventive as desirable: ceramic plate by an unknown Russian hand

which may prove to be a pansy or a butterfly (or, as a lady present remarked, E.T.), are inexplicable as either but, we are told, refer to specifically Alsatian peasant designs.

The show, with minor additions and subtractions, has been seen already in Darmstadt and Strasbourg, and at Betty's Tea Rooms, Harrogate. Even given Spindler's enforced cosmopolitanism, this last seems odd, but apparently the inventor of Betty's Tea Rooms was on the maiden voyage of the Queen Mary and was there impressed with some of the woodwork which proved to be by Spindler, so he commissioned Spindler to design for Harrogate and two other North-Country locations.

In London there are two shows which are relevantly involved with the applied arts. At the Geffrye Museum until December 30 is a selection of Art Nouveau from the Anderson Collection. Nowadays collecting Art Nouveau is a very scholarly and selective occupation, but when Sir Colin and Lady Anderson began in 1962 the area was terra incognita, and those with the bug would tend

to buy anything faintly swirly and floral first, then find out about it afterwards. The show consequently contains many delightful (and many rather camp) objects without established parentage, as well as major pieces by Gallé, Tiffany, Mucha and Majorelle. Indi-



The Parian Phenomenon: detail of *Lady Godiva* by John Thomas Minton, c.1859

vidually the pieces of jewellery, ceramic, glass and furniture are usually well worth seeing, but the big come-on is the period charm of the collection as a collection.

The come-on for Richard Dennis's show *The Parian Phenomenon*, at Chelsea Town Hall until Friday, is as much anything the extraordinary spectacle of the show itself, with amazing pyramidal confections of the distinctive white unglazed china reaching up towards the ceiling in serrated and slightly funeral ranks. The subjects range from portraits of heroes and royalty to elaborate tableaux from romance and legend to affecting Victorian scenes like *The Last Kiss* (little girl kisses dead bird before burying it). Not all is pure white: some few pieces are coloured all over, and several have just titillating touches. But mostly it is white and pure and rather ghostly. For anyone in need of further information, Mr Dennis is as usual accompanying the show with a book, due early in the New Year, which is likely, as usual, to be the last word on its subject.

John Russell Taylor

Concert

Per Musica

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Never mind the odd, slightly rough-and-ready sound: this was an enjoyable concert, thanks partly to the willingness of the young orchestra, partly to Julian Reynolds's crisp direction, and partly to a stimulating choice of programme.

Schoenberg and Stravinsky were both represented by major scores not often played: Schoenberg by his Second Chamber Symphony and Stravinsky by the complete *Pulcinella*. Then, in between, there was Mendelssohn's G minor Piano Concerto, given a very lively performance by Jean-Louis Steuermann. Indeed, the sound was a bit too lively: curtaining the back wall might have helped give Mr Steuermann's playing some soft focus instead of an unhelpful booming resonance.

The bare concrete did help, though, in projecting the exuberant noise of the orchestra. Per Musica are a group of graduates from the EEC Youth Orchestra who came together a year ago in order to perpetuate their orchestral work in occasional concerts and short tours. They play for enjoyment, and it shows. But Mr Reynolds is not in the business of simply letting everyone have a good time. Conducting without a score, he seemed to have an exact notion at every moment

of the balance and rhythmic character he wanted - or rather of those that the music wanted. Performances were clear, and cleanly articulated.

Such a style was a great boon in the Schoenberg, which can easily seem too comfortably lugubrious. As in Schoenberg's other tonal works of his sixties one misses the daemon that had been driving him to travel so rapidly through similar territory when he was in his thirties. Without that compelling necessity, the music is in danger of seeming merely charming, but it was saved from that fate by the very candour of the performance: smoothly if unwillingly moving forward in the first movement, and dancing with brilliance at the start of the second.

Mr Reynolds's manner of conducting was perhaps even better suited to *Pulcinella*, which he made so much an interlocking sequence of vivid musical machines. There is a problem here with the three singers, who have so little to do. Plonking them oratorio-fashion at the front gives a false visual and acoustic impression; it might be better to have them heard from off-stage when the work is done in concert halls.

In any event, only the bass Peter Harvey on Sunday seemed entirely happy with his part, which was rather a pity when the instrumentalists were bouncing along so merrily.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre

Feiffer's America
Lyric Studio

I expected better, but that was probably unreasonable. How can an evening of cartoon-strip titbits, even if less short-winded than Schulz's for *Sneaky*, and Feiffer's corrosive character-essays on successive presidents escape inducing the cloyed dissatisfaction that comes from eating too many cocktail canapés, however expertly fashioned, and not having dinner? A whizz-bang pizzazz approach might have helped, but whatever the virtues of John Barlow's cast (of which more presently) they do not deliver it. Moreover, all the material points in the same direction.

The very title promises a little shop of horrors, and the promise is kept. Particularly the presidents: Eisenhower "soft-soaped paranoia"; egotistical John Kennedy "didn't mind dissent - he just patronized it"; Johnson was the first bully, liar, thief, credibility gap and other things too fast to note; Nixon was "a wonderful turd, the Mozart of mediocrity"; Ford embodied "the void left after the collapse of the American dream"; Carter had grit and pluck and determination and couldn't keep us awake; Reagan brought us Christmases when Supply-Side Santa (in the chording person of David Healy) commanded us to fight and scratch and crawl for our presents. Did this, in rehearsal, seem a bit of wit? In practice it is depressing, and anyhow we know it already.

For relief, there are hung-up Feiffer couples, hung-up Feiffer singles hooked on TV, and, disaster of disasters, endless

dance interruptions from Lynn Seymour meant to parody pretentiousness but never doing so sharply or amusingly enough - even if she does come into her own in witty sketches like a paranoid wife clinging to Mr Healy's selfish midriff for support and comfort.

Theoretically an intelligent pocket revue ready to sail into a little West End theatre for a long run, this Mount Rushmore of grotesques, significant and insignificant, dispiritedly suggests only that democracy is phoney show-business and individual freedom produces ignorant, self-obsessed perplexity. Contrast the playful mischief of a political commentator like Bernard Levin (remember his comparison of Wilson and Macmillan, "The Walrus and the Carpenter"), which delights and pleases the reader while remaining unforgettably deadly.

The cast is strong. It is good to renew acquaintance with the cuddly, witty Mel Taylor (billed as "The Token Black"), with the homespun Mr Healy indulging in a hymn to domestic sentimentality before bearing his baseball bat off to a civil rights demonstration, and with the tiny, red-eyed Peter Whitman, impersonating a succession of twitchy, American males before delighting the house with his lazy-blinking, manicured Henry Kissinger.

Anthony Masters

Opera
Bruson scores heavily for early Verdi

I due Foscari
Teatro Regio, Turin

Undeterred by their increasingly precarious financial position, Italy's major opera houses have at last begun to take seriously the revival of interest in early Verdi. The ground around recent productions in Milan and theatres is that first-class casting and a kilt-glove approach to staging are essential if the energetic vocal writing and skeleton/dramatic structure are to be projected in a flattering light. On these terms, the production of *I due Foscari* at Turin ranks, like the opera itself, as a fragile success.

The deciding factor has been the participation of Renato Bruson, whose loyalty to the theatres that were the training ground for his international career has won this production at the Teatro Regio the kind of popularity normally reserved for mainstream repertory. The very size of Bruson's performance reinforces the case for regarding *I due Foscari* - coming directly after *Ernani* and before *Giulietta d'Arco* - as a baritone's opera. It is an impression supported by the almost precocious stature of Verdi's writing for the Venetian, Doge and by his preoccupation, while still only 30, with the personification of fatherly love and public office that was to develop such force in later operas.

Bruson's tonal amplitude is ideal for the part of the



Rare champion of bel canto: Renato Bruson (right) with Nicola Martinucci

octogenarian Foscari: he sings with phrasing of deceptive spaciousness and with a clarity of diction and technical agility that distinguishes him as a rare champion of *bel canto*. These are assets to be cherished, as Bruson illustrated in his two principal arias, where his mature fusion of vocal and dramatic skills was a summation of Verdian authority and humanity. His ensemble singing showed the same consideration, and in the final tableau his stooped, tottering gait and controlled passion made the rudimentary ending both plausible and moving.

The son and daughter-in-law of the Foscari household on this occasion had the character of problem children, unable to ignore Verdi's melodies or draw character out of stereotype. As Jacopo, Nicola Martinucci illustrated once again how unintelligently he uses a good voice, while the miscasting of Dunja Vejzovic as Lucrezia had particularly unfortunate consequences in the large tableaux, where her inability to rise above the ensemble forced the conductor to shade the dynamics much to the detriment of Verdi's stately crescendos. All sections in the pit treated their parts with love and respect - the orchestral score in this opera is

one of its most unexpected assets - but Maurizio Arena's deference to the relentless interruptions for applause gave the performance little chance to develop its own momentum.

The staging was by Sylvano Bussotti, whose appetite for ugly drop-curtains further compartmentalized the opera's structure. He did have the sense, however, to leave a clear stage for the Doge's ruminations; these scenes alone, with Tono Zancanaro's costumes and decor, realized the simple grandeur of this short and appealingly direct work.

Andrew Clark

Television
A gift of tongues

to subvert it by removing its practicality and "meaning", substituting for these dull native characteristics a quality of music or incantation. And it is also the case that, given the evident fact that the Irish are good talkers, there is a rhetorical intention behind those beautiful cadences which writers like Joyce and Yeats were not slow to exploit.

By the time Mr Norris had finished, the discussion was moving along nicely - with the novelist Jennifer Johnston asserting that the Irish were not a middle-class people and that as a result they have been more vigorous or courageous in their application of language to reality.

This is an arguable point, and in any such discussion it is important to produce examples. Which Mr Delaney and his guests then proceeded to do: the theoretical controversy soon came down (or, rather, up) to the swapping of funny stories. As William Trevor explained, there is still a tradition of oral story-telling in Ireland - although he did not add that most of its practitioners now work in television.

The larger point, obliquely put last night, was that some glory has departed from the English language - certainly it seems a much starker and less resonant thing than its nineteenth-century equivalent - and that this denuded fate is one which Irish-English has managed partly to avoid. This was an interesting and even entertaining discussion - Frank Delaney himself was clearly in his element, which has not always been the case during this series.

Peter Ackroyd

Rock
Lou Reed
Brixton Academy

The pantomime pop season is in full swing this week with camps being set up around Wembley ready to cheer on the good guys. Meanwhile, in Brixton, the over-twenties could enjoy their own entertainment watching Lou Reed, cast these days in the role of wicked uncle.

Reed's status as founder member of the Velvet Underground is higher than ever; his influence as a rhythm guitarist and purveyor of lurid urban street-level tales is similarly acknowledged. The pout and the sneer may have been replaced by a grin and the odd wisecrack, the observations of Andy Warhol's Factory children by a new set of references to bourgeois Manhattan social life, but Reed still knows how to tell a tall story and strike up a linear form of R & B.

Reed's current band, spearheaded by the guitarist Robert Quine, sounded a few shades too safe on the older material but their work on the *New Sensations* songs, which Reed jocularly described as "another of my best-selling records", was solid enough, impressive without quite settling the pulse racing. He made passing references to his own soul heroes during the evening, implying that the sounds he heard when he switched on the New York stations were those of Marvin Gaye and James Brown; whether this band would have passed an Apollo audition was a moot point.

Ironically, the best moments were when Reed revisited his most commercial phase, one he

has disowned in the past, and interpreted "Walk on the Wild Side" and "Satellite of Love" with country troubadour rhythms. By contrast the ennu of "Do the Things that We Want To" and the seediness of "Turn to Me" were far less convincing.

Max Bell

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22,513,277

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The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted to the Official List all the 22,513,277 shares of issued, and reserved for issue, Common Stock of Home Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Particulars relating to Home Federal are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars, together with copies of the latest audited financial statements, may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 3rd January, 1985 from:

**Goldman Sachs International Corp.,
162 Queen Victoria Street,
London EC4V 4DB**

**W. Greenwell & Co.,
Bow Bells House,
Bread Street,
London EC4M 9EL**

18th December, 1984

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Lucas slumps after profits warning

By Pam Spooner and Cliff Feltham

Lucas Industries took a battering yesterday as analysts came away disillusioned from the components group's annual meeting.

Sir Godfrey Messervy, the chairman, told shareholders and observers: "Recent strikes at British vehicle builders - Jaguar, Austin Rover - and the current dispute at Ford have restricted sales and disrupted production with an unfortunate short-term impact on profit recovery."

That was enough to wipe out early gains and send the shares down to 259p, a 10p loss on the day.

At the annual profits announcement just three weeks ago no mention was made of the impact of industrial troubles, and the analysts' theme song was "full recovery ahead" for the car and electronics supplier. But now City men are rushing to cut their forecasts for 1985, and are taking an especially poor view of the first six months, which end in January.

Mr Bob Barber, at Phillips & Drew, had already cut his estimate from around £60 million to £54 million before the annual meeting, but believes yesterday's news will cause many of his rivals to think more in terms of profits in the "low 50s". Mr Barber will hang on to see how long the Ford strike lasts before reviewing the prospects again, but now says "£54 million looks like the top line for 1985".

In the year to last July, Lucas produced profits of £32.6 million, against just £2.1 million in 1983. The massive turnaround to profits, on the automotive business brought hopes that the group would return to the high profit levels of the late 1970s.

The sharp trimming of the Lucas share price after lunch yesterday contributed to the top 30 shares going off the boil as the day wore on. The FT 30 share index, after being up more than 9 points at gas stage, closed just 2.9 points higher on the day - still a new peak of 938.3.

The FT-SE 100 share index showed much the same pattern, touching 1217.4 at 10 am, but closing at 1212.3, just 7.7 points up.

Among leading shares, Imperial Chemical Industries did

its best to push the indices into ever higher ground. The shares jumped 18p to 730p as market men continue to show their appreciation of the group's purchases in America. ICI last week paid £225 million for the chemicals businesses of Beatrice Foods Inc.

BOC Group went 6p higher to 266p on City hopes that the group might sell its loss-making US operations. Blue Circle also managed a 10p rise to 483p in a

Mr Jeremy Fowler, who resigned as chief executive of Aldrom last summer after the design and research group's merger with S & O Consultants has resurfaced in the marketing business. He has joined Novamark International, "an deputy chairman, and small shareholder with the specific task of guiding the trade name specialists to a stock market listing. Novamark is well known for its creation of the Metro, Maestro and Montego brand names for Austin Rover, and for work for many other big international companies."

firm building and construction sector, and there were gains for Imperial Group, Marks & Spencer and British Telecom.

Electrical group Dixons refused to leave the spotlight following the success of its takeover bid for Carrys.

Speculation that Dixons itself

could now fall to a predator was

reflected in a 7p rise in the

shares to take them to a year's

high of 514p.

BAT Industries is still keen

on the specialty retailing sector

and none fits that category

better than Dixons/Carrys -

although even the energies of

Mr Patrick Sheehy, the chair-

man, are sure to be taxed to the

full integration Hambro Life

onto the group's broadening

financial services arm.

One name mentioned as a

possible bidder was the Ameri-

can-owned Woolworth group -

unrelated to the UK chain - but

from New York Mr John

Cammon, vice president and

treasurer, said: "Our interest

remains in specialty retailing in

North America at present. I am

not aware of any interest by our

company in Dixons."

The Dixons buying was put

down to "idle Christmas

gossip" by the chairman, Mr

Stanley Kalms. "Stanley Kalms

is not for sale," he said. "It

doesn't make any commercial

sense at this stage for someone

to try and take us over. Let us

settle down. But I cannot speak

for the future."

Mr Kalms said he thought

the price was going up because

the Carrys deal was being

recognized as a good one and

was attracting some "solid

institutional buying."

On the brewery pitches share

prices responded to market

optimism for consumer spend-

ing in 1985. Retail sales could

be better than previously

expected, as inflation sticks at

around 5 per cent a year and

earnings look like rising by

more than 7 per cent. Two per

cent, or more, of real spending

power will pass over pub

counters, the analysts hope.

Bass rose 10p to 478p, Grand

Metropolitan 7p to 320p,

Greenall-Waitley 4p to 155p,

Arthur Guinness & Sons 6p to

194p and Scottish & Newcastle,

alongside its better-than-ex-

pected results, 4p to 136½p.

There were gains of a few pence

for the smaller brewers too.

The Bass price is another

peak for the shares, and mark a

near 30p gain in the past two

market trading days. Mr Neil

Scourie, analyst at stockbroker

firm Fielding Newsom-Smith,

says: "Bass has come out of the

gossip."

The Electrical components

group, A.F. Bulgin, hit a high for

the year of 31p yesterday, up 2p

on the day, after a bullish

investment newsletter enthused

over the new management and

direction of the company. Profits

of £750,000 this year and £1.5

million to £2 million next year

are predicted.

results season extremely well.

The company has shown that

selling and distributing beer can

be very profitable if you can get

your act right."

At Laurie, Milbank, the

stockbroker, analyst Mr John

Walters has told clients to

switch from highly rated re-

gionals such as Boddingtons and

Greene King into Vaux Brew-

eries. Mr Walters points out

that Vaux will get around 45 per

cent of profits this year from

hotels but is currently rated at

below the average price-earn-

ings mark even for breweries.

Vaux shares were 3p higher at

252p yesterday.

News of more than

£7,250,000 worth of orders

helped shares in Hestair, the

bus and coach maker, jump 4p

to 59p. After an unhappy set of

half-year figures back in Sep-

tember, the shares are now

comfortably above their 42p

low point.

At Perry (H) Motors there

was confirmation of the sale of

Some "significant" buying is

behind the rise in Peek Holdings

from 18p to 27p over the past

week. The feeling is that

the chairman, Mr John Leworthy,

the stockbroker best known for

his shrewd takeover deals at

Crystalate, will soon be

working his magic on Peek; a

grain storage and handling

business which finished last year

with a deficit of £313,000. L

Messels, the broker, is forecast-

ing for up to £250,000 profits

this year.

Perrylease to United Dom-

inions Trust. The motor

distributor has received the

£727,970 of the leasing subsidi-

ary's reserves, plus a £50,000

payment from UDT. Perry will

get the future earnings arising

from the "leased asset portfolio

existing at the date of sale". The

group's share price rose 7p to

89p.

Elsewhere, among motor

traders, BSG International

gained 1p to 22p following the

report of City bid gossip. British

Car Auction, led by Mr David

Wickins, is thought to be ready

to pounce. BSA shares went 1p

higher to 85p.

Atlanta Investment Trust

added a penny to 137p as

Grovebell Group disclosed it

had received acceptances for its

£5.6 million bid from holders of

26.01 per cent of the share. The

offer, which has a cash alterna-

tive of 127½, has been extended

for a week. Grovebell will need

to lift the bid to stay in the

game. Its own shares remained

unchanged at 17p.

United Biscuits stepped into

the market limelight, rising 6p to

186p on talk of a bid for the

company. Beatrice Foods of the

US is reckoned to be in the

market for more food com-

panies, having hived off its

chemicals interests to ICI last

week.

But UB's chairman, Sir

Hector Laing, says: "We keep

an eye on the shares and there is

nothing unusual going on, so far

as we are aware. I do not know

of any approaches or of anyone

looking at the company."

Sir Hector and his family is

the biggest single shareholder,

but has less than 10 per cent of

the Monopolies Commission.

Yesterday's announcement of

interim results had also been

preceded by takeover activity

although this time S & N's bid

for Moray Firth Holdings

should go through unhindered.

This flurry of takeover

activity is indicative of S & N's

strategy which is designed to

ensure that the group does not

get bogged down in markets

which threaten to stagnate.

The acquisition will not only

ensure that S & N has its own

in-house malt supply - only 10

per cent is manufactured

internally against an industry

average of about 75 per cent -

but it will also push the group's

interests into areas not nor-

mally associated with the

brewing companies.

Moray Firth has strong links

with farming and has two

subsidiaries involved in agri-

cultural merchandising. It may

well be that S & N's acquisition

strategy will ignore the well-

trodden leisure and drink

related path and adopt a more

diverse course which will guide

it into growth sectors such as

financial services.

Even without these develop-

ments the group looks in good

shape and yesterday's pretax

profits of £37.5 million were

almost £6 million up on last

year. The improvement was

largely attributable to an

excellent half year from the

hotels division.

However, brewing profits

were also ahead and the

performance was even more

encouraging considering the

exposure that S & N has to the

miners' strike. Volumes im-

proved and the proportion of

lager sales again increased

Canned beers disappointed but

without the marketing cam-

paign in support it was always

going to be difficult to match

last year's excellent volumes.

The shares were up 4p to

136½p and they might just be

ready for an upward run.

● CANVERMOOR: Final 2.44p,

mks 3.64p (same) for year to Sep

30. Turnover £3.74 million (£2.1

million). P/B before tax, £402.565

(£521.165). The combined effects

of the continuing recession in the

North, and more seriously the

miners' strike, depressed profits

considerably. With its national sale

force and distribution network,

Canvermoor is now moving away

from total reliance on its soft drinks

activities into other products and

brands, although still related to the

هكذا من الأصل

Learn how to win
an Acorn

COMPUTER HORIZONS

Edited by MATTHEW MAY

Christmas gifts,
US-style



The Times Schools Network Competition

The Times Network For Schools is offering the chance to win one of the first Acorn ABC Business Machines in a nationwide competition sponsored by Acorn Computers. Students are invited to submit ideas for a project linked to any curriculum subject, which will be run on the Times Network For Schools later in 1985. The winning student will also receive an Acorn Electron home computer, with prize of the new edition Times Atlas for 10 runners-up and their schools.

Lunched in November, The Times Network For Schools (TTNS) is a communication system for education, providing electronic mail nationwide, and a central database of information. Schools use their microcomputers, plus a package of hardware and software from TTNS, to dial into the network and over half of the local education authorities in the UK are participating in the initial phase. Costs are subsidized by industrial and commercial sponsors, many of whom contribute data or programs to the database.

TO ENTER
The competition is open to students aged 11 to 18 years inclusive and is not restricted to members of TTNS. No technical programming is required and schools do not need computer equipment in order to enter. Entrants are asked to devise an imaginative and original communications project that makes best use of TTNS features, and expands the use of computers in any curriculum subject. The educational and social merits of the scheme will be taken into consideration, as will the practical implementation, and entrants should bear in mind its international possibilities.

The main features of TTNS are:
1. Inter-school communication nationwide, using computers.
2. A central database, searchable by menu or keyword.
3. Fast transmission of large data files or software programs, with built-in error correction.

Write down your idea on a single sheet of paper, using no

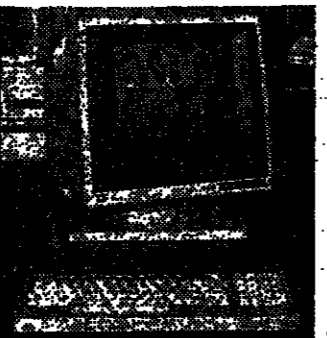
more than 250 words. Include name, age, address and telephone number, together with the name and address of your school. Send the completed entry to: TTNS Competition, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1 9EZ.

The closing date for entries is Thursday, 31 January, 1985.

The judges' decision will be final and the age of entrants will be taken into consideration. Names of winners will be published in The Times no more than two weeks after the closing date. Any material submitted becomes the sole property and copyright of The Times Network For Schools.

The prizes

First Prize
For the school: An Acorn ABC 110 Business Computer with 120 K Megabyte hard disc, twin 720 K disc drives and high-resolution



colour screen. A selection of software plus Expert local area networking facilities.
For the student: An Acorn Electron home computer with 64K memory, which is now fully expandable up to a disc system.

The winning school will also receive a year's free membership of The Times Network For Schools. (If the winning school is already part of the network, the subscription will be refunded.)

Ten Runners-up

For the school: A copy of The Times Atlas of the World (retail price £45). For the student: A copy of The Times Concise Atlas (£18.50).

The year never lived up to its Orwellian promise. Television did take some faltering steps towards Big Brother through the auspices of the European Commission which officially recognized that satellite television, through which programmes would be beamed across national boundaries, was no longer a promise but a reality.

That recognition meant that television would not in the future be controlled by the political forces of which George Orwell was so fearful. That acknowledgement was made in the summer by the commission, through the publication of a Green Paper, and could prove the most significant influence on the Information Technology industry between now and 2000.

Satellites had been in the news at the beginning of the year. British insurance brokers, who in January had been making plans to provide the insurance for £7,000 million worth of satellites and space craft due for launching during the year, were licking their wounds by the spring when an abortive space shuttle mission was to lose two communication satellites.

Two separate amounts totalling £75 million comprised London's share of the compensation to be paid to the owners of the satellites. Westar 6, owned by Western Union with an insurance cover of \$104 million - 30 per cent of which was insured in London - was the first shock in the February mission.

Within two days the Indonesian government satellite Palapa B2 was lost. It had been re-insured abroad for \$75 million, of which nearly two thirds was placed in London. The story had a poor start but a happy ending.

Both satellites were recovered in the autumn by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) which was as keen to recover

lost pride as it was the lost satellites.

While the European Commission was prepared to accept that satellite television was inevitable, the British were not convinced. For most of the year the BBC and then later the independent television companies with industrial partners, were to ally over the commercial viability of a Direct Broadcasting Satellite (DBS). The original partnership of the BBC and the satellite consortium British Aerospace, Marconi and British Telecom, had been inspired by a government keen on promoting British industry but having little idea how to do it.

It became clear that the preferred satellite design on commercial grounds would be American. If the last 12 months is to be followed by another year of the same indecision France, Germany, Luxembourg and even Ireland will have their satellites in orbit well before the British.

The Green Paper Television Across Frontiers highlighted the spirit of the Treaty of Rome which was to encourage "cross-border" transfers of broadcasts and data. Every member of the Community, at least in theory,

had the right to have free access. Commenting on the Green Paper the EEC had said about television: "As one of the key media in the dissemination of information, ideas and opinions, television can play an important role in nurturing Europeans' awareness of their cultural and historical heritage".

Worthy sentiments indeed but the issues will need to be addressed by the member states in 1985 as a matter of urgency. The Commission had stressed that the Green Paper was but a discussion document. That was a political smokescreen. Everyone on the IT industry knows that the questions raised by the paper must not only be addressed but solved.

It was the pressure from the Commission which was also instrumental in forcing Britain to modernize its laws on computer data.

THE YEAR

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

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Information training: why have we been falling behind?
Why do we need to set up a national institute?
British Telecom under fire: the case for competition

Headlines of the year

Is it really nix to Unix?

By Kevan Pearson

With IBM expected to launch a version of the Unix operating system for its mainframes early next year, a US report predicts a limited future for the system. International Research Development, a research organization, predicts that Unix will not penetrate the commercial market widely. At best, says the company, Unix will remain a "niche standard" in the markets in which it already enjoys a considerable amount of success, such as education and science and engineering.

IBM has put Unix on several of its existing systems, such as the PC and specialist scientific system the System 9000, available only in the US. But it has emphasized that these implementations are clearly aimed for the education and scientific markets, as the company explained when it launched the PC/AT with Xenix, a Unix-based system, in the UK in

September. Putting Unix on the company's mainframes is likely to be an extension of this policy.

It will be a pity, says IRLD, more into conflict with traditional mainframe systems. This market is dominated by IBM's Equipment Finance Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary, which has bad news for Unix. IBM's plan to improve its mainframe operating system in the last few years has been a

four-to-one ratio of advantage. The company's margin is 10 per cent, says IRLD, but a US takeover of the company would mean a 20 per cent margin. There is little to be done, says IRLD, to improve the mainframe's performance. The company's margin is 10 per cent, says IRLD, but a US takeover of the company would mean a 20 per cent margin.

Telephone & Telegraph, which invented Unix, is also expected to enter that market soon.

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UK events

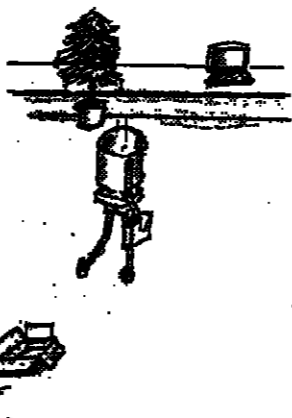
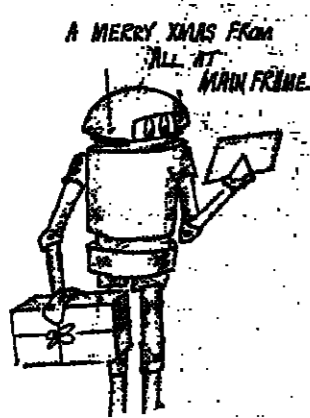
CAD/CAM International Show, NEC, Birmingham, January 8-10 (01-837 3699).
Which Computer? NEC, Birmingham, January 15-18 (01-891 5051).
Micro Show, Leisure Centre, Swansea, January 17-19 (0202 23 23).

International Computer Fair, Frankfurt, Germany, January 22-25 (0202 23 23).
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Cut out the mysteries of the IBM PC

IBM PC TRAINING COURSES



What Santa's carrying for US hi-tech addicts

By Geoffrey Ellis

For the gadget-conscious, Christmas provided an opportunity to catch up on all of the items which the advertisers would have you believe, make life just that little bit easier.

This year is no exception, especially for gift-crazy Americans, where magazine advertisements make rich picking for gadget-devotees. Though ads still offer traditional goodies such as electrically heated socks, brass reading lamps and personalized table mats, it is in the high-tech microchip area

that the true innovator will find happiness.

One big-seller this year is a device that no pampered motorist should be without. For only \$260 (about £210) it is possible to wire up your car with a computer-controlled box that allows the driver to sit in the comfort of the home, while box fitted to the car, starts the engine, adjusts the heater, switches on the demister and sets the clock.

The aptly named Wizard of Wine gives a digital appraisal of 249 vintages, and, as the copy reads, "with the Wizard of Wine

computer at your fingertips, you're the expert on French, Italian, German, and Californian wines". Looking like a pocket calculator it has an LCD display which lists vintage years for 11 wine regions, and rates each year's harvest on a numerical scale, even advising if the wine is ready for drinking. At \$39 it seems to be reasonably priced, but is a lot less fun than actually researching the wine with the human senses.

Finally some items for users of the telephone. A portable "auto dialler", also resembling a calculator, enables the user to carry up to 85 names in its

memory, recall a number by entering the subscriber's name and dial the number by holding it to the mouthpiece, where it sends coded data, allowing the phone to dial automatically. Slightly more sinister are the devices for the paranoid, a neatly packaged electronic scrambling device which converts conversations into indecipherable service often provided by this country by electronic bug detectors that fits in a pocket, enables the user to walk into a room and spot who is wearing a bug. Possibilities here for party games.

What's good for our dealers is good for you.

When we decided to address the business computer market, we found a dilemma.

Do customers want the accessibility and accountability of a public company?

The result: SBC.

SBC is a network of professional independent dealers individually vetted against stringent criteria, with the backing of a £30 million organisation.

Everything we give to our dealers enhances their service to you—from competitive products and prices, to exceptional leasing and maintenance deals.

We have them taken some of the best dealers and given them more. So what's good for our dealers is good for you.

For the best of both worlds in business micros, contact your nearest SBC dealer or complete the coupon now!

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can keep in Joneses

Connors apologizes for his behaviour and escapes disqualification

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Göteborg

Jimmy Connors has not been disqualified from today's reverse singles in the Davis Cup final between Sweden and the United States. Even if he had been, the U.S. would have been permitted to replace him. Alan Mills, the referee, admitted yesterday that he had misinterpreted the relevant rule when announcing on Sunday evening that, as Sweden already had a 2-0 lead, the five-match final would be over if Connors was disqualified.

Connors incurred fines amounting to a total of roughly \$1,650 for his misconduct while losing in straight sets to Mats Wilander. The possibility of disqualification arose because of a comment Connors made at the end of the match.

Yesterday Connors offered a convincing apology to umpire and referee. Mills accepted that, partly because of the importance of the occasion, partly because "a lot of people would have been disappointed had there been a default", and partly because of his sympathetic awareness that Connors was under stress because his wife was expecting a baby "at any minute". On the other hand, Mills had reservations about the fact that, having checked the rule again and consulted the International Tennis Federation, he now knew that a disqualified player must be replaced.

does not make substitution mandatory - a player who is mentally or physically unfit may serve his team best by deliberately incurring disqualification.

What with one thing and another, this is turning out to be a bizarre occasion that is testing the sanity of all those closely involved. On Sunday, John McEnroe and Connors, who had been seeded to contest the final of the Masters tournament in New York next month, were both beaten in straight sets by 20-year-old opponents, Henrik Sundstrom and Wilander.

Sweden therefore led 2-0. In the history of this world tennis championship there has only been one precedent - in 1939, when Australia bounced back against the U.S. for a team turning 0-2 into 3-2, which was the task: confronting the US after Sunday's singles.

Results, indeed, who, satisfied all have been a default, and partly because of his sympathetic awareness that Connors was under stress because his wife was expecting a baby "at any minute". On the other hand, Mills had reservations about the fact that, having checked the rule again and consulted the International Tennis Federation, he now knew that a disqualified player must be replaced.

final. Then it snowed - after one day of a great tennis festival. Yesterday's dawn produced a golden glow of lights from houses and apartment blocks, against a whitened backdrop of snow-covered hills. The radio offered a respiteless succession of Christmas songs, mawkish and jolly in return.

In an effort to regain a sense of proportion, your correspondent fled to the countryside for a two-day weekend in a wintery wonderland of wooded slopes and frozen lakes. When confused, it is useful to talk to the ducks and geese and listen to the seals coughing. But it did not do good. Back at the tennis, a six-piece traditional jazz band (complete with the obligatory red waistcoats and straw hats) invaded the press working area.

It has to be said that, in the hours set aside for rest and recreation, there is nothing to beat wildlife parks and traditional jazz. But when imprisoned with a typewriter, the former is impossible and the latter frustrating. Hang on a moment. This is a hell of a trombone solo.

Nor must one forget that the umpires here, both British, are a Lieutenant-Colonel and a Wing Commander. The implication that Connors and McEnroe justify an invasion by the British armed services has not been lost on the press corps. With the Connors match in mind, one French journalist could not resist a barbed suggestion that Wimbledon officials are tougher overseas than they are at Wimbledon.

The implications offer interesting "dangling" points that could keep us busy for hours. If you had hours to spare you may reasonably start from the premise that - as injury itself

Seed on top

Kate Brasher's 6-3, 6-3 win over Sophian Nicholson in the first round of the Sunbelt women's singles championship at the David Lloyd Centre, Heston, yesterday was not as straightforward as it seems. Miss Brasher, the second seed, sped to 5-0 up in the first set only for the Irish international to recover to within a point of reaching 4-5.

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Convincing win for Mac

By Jenny MacArthur

Michael Mac, the former junior European champion, who has been flying high since his victory in the Olympia show jumping championships, had a convincing win on Felton International's Packer Hill, the horse on which he helped win the Nations Cup event at Lisburn in September, in yesterday's Modern Alarms Christmas Stakes. The competition was a "Take Your Own Line" in which the obstacles may only be jumped once but in the order chosen by the competitor.

Mac, aged 22, who comes from Coventry, is a former top junior but this week he has jumped with an authority and skill which have shown him more than equal to taking on the top international riders. Although yesterday was his first win at the show he has had two seconds, a third, and was sixth in the World Cup qualifier. All three of his horses - Each Way Forward and Snow King make up the trio - have gone well for him.

In yesterday's competition Mac showed a fine sense of judgment when clipping a quarter of a second

off the time of the Olympic silver medal, Tim Grubb on Arabesque. The Leicester-born but American-based Grubb had flown over the top of the show jumping arena after the show because of an as yet undiagnosed infection in the nine-year-old bay gelding Lucky, belonging to Peter Leffer, the German Olympic rider, Jenny MacArthur writes.

They will only be released if permission from the Ministry of Agriculture in the appropriate country is given. France has already done this.

Lucky had a temperature and was unwell when it arrived after a long crossing and long journey.

Prix last year, Michael Whittaker, who is having a deservedly successful show took third place on Colerway.

Later in the afternoon Grubb underlined the strength of his new, if transitory, partnership with Arabesque when he won the Radio Rental Power & Speed class.

Part of Michael Whittaker's winnings came from his third place in Sunday night's Modern Alarms Holly Stakes, in which he rode his puma, the Belgian-bred Tarnan, to second place.

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Gentlemen of Verona triumph in Rome

Depleted Verona, victorious in Rome against Lazio, and still top of the Italian League. Terry Venables' Barcelona beaten at last, in Bilbao, where the fans fought. Bordeaux victorious again in France after their setback in Monaco; but hit by the news that Chalanis will not play for a long while.

Verona's win showed, triumphantly, that they are in no way reliant on their two summer purchases, Brighi, who was playing for West Germany in Mainz, and Eklund, the Danish forward, who is still injured. The only goal was scored on the hour by little Galdieri, the centre-forward, who is (goalless in Florence) let go.

Verona now have two Italian internationals, Antonio Di Gennaro, who scored a splendid 2-0 yard goal against Poland's "Pescara" after hitting the post, and Attilio Tricella, who came on that day as substitute sweeper.

Di Gennaro is a Fiorentina given only five League games by Fiorentina before spending a season with Perugia. Then he helped

Rio de Janeiro (AP) - Flamengo were their second successive Rio de Janeiro state football championship winners, beating Botafogo 2-0 in a victory over their traditional rival, Fluminense. A crowd of 153,522 turned out in the rain at Maracanã stadium for the match, decided by a header from Assis, a midfielder player.

Verona to promotion from Serie B, the second division, and has been maturing as a midfielder ever since. Now 26, he showed increased confidence in his second international appearance, goal in midweek against Anderlecht, scored only one in the Bernabeu Stadium against Valencia, but it was enough to give them victory and close the gap with Barcelona to three points. After a dazzling start, and a goal beautifully prepared by young Butragueno via Santillana for Valdano, the Argentinians, Real ran out of steam. They were lucky to hang on in the second half.

Brian Glanville is football correspondent of The Sunday Times.

Celtic inquiry date

Berne. (Reuters) - The European football governing body (UEFA) will meet on January 17 to discuss the disturbances during last week's Celtic Cup Winners' Cup match between Celtic and Rapid Vienna, a spokesman said yesterday.

Results from foreign leagues

ARGENTINA: Boca Juniors 0, Rosario Central 0; San Lorenzo 0, River Plate 0; Independiente 0, Estudiantes 0; Racing Club 0, Newells Old Boys 0; San Martin 0, Talleres 0; Estudiantes 0, River Plate 0; Independiente 0, Estudiantes 0; Racing Club 0, Newells Old Boys 0; San Martin 0, Talleres 0.

SPAIN: Real Madrid 0, Athletic Bilbao 0; Barcelona 0, Espanol 0; Valencia 0, Real Sociedad 0; Sevilla 0, Real Betis 0; Athletic Bilbao 0, Espanol 0; Barcelona 0, Espanol 0; Valencia 0, Real Sociedad 0; Sevilla 0, Real Betis 0.

FRANCE: Marseille 0, Nantes 0; Bordeaux 0, Lens 0; Monaco 0, St. Etienne 0; Lille 0, Auxerre 0; Nantes 0, Bordeaux 0; Bordeaux 0, Lens 0; Monaco 0, St. Etienne 0; Lille 0, Auxerre 0.

ITALY: Juventus 0, Fiorentina 0; Inter Milan 0, Lazio 0; AC Milan 0, Roma 0; AS Roma 0, Lazio 0; Fiorentina 0, Juventus 0; Juventus 0, Fiorentina 0; Inter Milan 0, Lazio 0; AC Milan 0, Roma 0; AS Roma 0, Lazio 0.

NETHERLANDS: Ajax 0, PSV Eindhoven 0; Feyenoord 0, Twente 0; Utrecht 0, NAC Breda 0; Groningen 0, Dordrecht 0; Ajax 0, PSV Eindhoven 0; Feyenoord 0, Twente 0; Utrecht 0, NAC Breda 0; Groningen 0, Dordrecht 0.

SCOTLAND: Rangers 0, Celtic 0; Aberdeen 0, Dundee 0; Hearts 0, Hibernian 0; Dundee 0, Rangers 0; Rangers 0, Celtic 0; Aberdeen 0, Dundee 0; Hearts 0, Hibernian 0; Dundee 0, Rangers 0.

IRELAND: Shamrock Rovers 0, Drogheda 0; Derry City 0, Sligo Rovers 0; Drogheda 0, Shamrock Rovers 0; Shamrock Rovers 0, Drogheda 0; Derry City 0, Sligo Rovers 0; Drogheda 0, Shamrock Rovers 0.

WILLIAMS LEAVES MAIDSTONE FOR S AFRICA

Bill Williams, the manager who took Maidstone to the Alliance Premier League (now the Gola League) championship last season, has resigned. Williams, who had been with the club for three years, is leaving football altogether and returning to his job in Africa.

FA TROPHY DRAW: First round: Duxford v AP Leamington; Duxford v AP Leamington; Duxford v AP Leamington; Duxford v AP Leamington; Duxford v AP Leamington; Duxford v AP Leamington; Duxford v AP Leamington; Duxford v AP Leamington.

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HOCKEY

Loughborough are close to losing record

By Joyce Whitehead

Brighton Polytechnic nearly secured Loughborough College's record on the second day of the three-day physical education college tournament yesterday. But they missed a penalty stroke and proceeded to lose by the only goal of the match.

Scoring has not been high except for two of the best college's matches. Sunday's joy was Oxfordshire. On their home ground they beat Somerset 3-2, a surprise that was well deserved because Oxfordshire worked hard.

Results: Sunday: 1st Match 4, Sheffield Polytechnic 0; Loughborough 1, Bedford 1; 2nd Match 2, Dordrecht 0; 3rd Match 1, Brighton Polytechnic 2; 4th Match 0, Bedford 1; 5th Match 0, Dordrecht 0; 6th Match 0, Sheffield Polytechnic 1; 7th Match 0, Loughborough 1; 8th Match 0, Bedford 1; 9th Match 0, Dordrecht 0; 10th Match 0, Sheffield Polytechnic 1; 11th Match 0, Loughborough 1; 12th Match 0, Bedford 1; 13th Match 0, Dordrecht 0; 14th Match 0, Sheffield Polytechnic 1; 15th Match 0, Loughborough 1; 16th Match 0, Bedford 1; 17th Match 0, Dordrecht 0; 18th Match 0, Sheffield Polytechnic 1; 19th Match 0, Loughborough 1; 20th Match 0, Bedford 1; 21st Match 0, Dordrecht 0; 22nd Match 0, Sheffield Polytechnic 1; 23rd Match 0, Loughborough 1; 24th Match 0, Bedford 1; 25th Match 0, Dordrecht 0; 26th Match 0, Sheffield Polytechnic 1; 27th Match 0, Loughborough 1; 28th Match 0, Bedford 1; 29th Match 0, Dordrecht 0; 30th Match 0, Sheffield Polytechnic 1; 31st Match 0, Loughborough 1; 32nd Match 0, Bedford 1; 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CAYMAN ISLANDS LAW SCHOOL
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL STUDIES
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of Director of Legal Studies in the Law School of the Cayman Islands, a British Crown Colony in the Caribbean.
The appointment will be on contract terms for an initial period of 24 months, commencing on 1 September 1985. Salary is C\$35,268 (C\$1.00=US\$1.20). Leave 20 days per annum. Government will pay 50% of rental for accommodation (maximum Government contribution C\$650 per month). No income tax is payable in the Cayman Islands.
Applicants for the post must have had at least five years experience of legal education at degree level.
Applications, including a curriculum vitae and names of three referees, should be submitted by 15 February 1985 to:
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Continued from page 26
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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 **Coolfax** All News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins.

6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Sonia Scott. News from Debbie Rix at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hour and at 8.55; sport at 8.40 and 8.55; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; programme choice at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.15 and 8.15. Plus Alan Titchmarsh answering viewers' phone-in gardening questions and Glynis Christie with more Christmas recipes.

9.00 **In Deeper Britain**. Naturalists Patrick Harding and Roger Lovegrove, with archaeologist Peter Fowler, explore the landscape in May (p. 8.30). **Coolfax** 10.30 Play School (p. 10.50). **Coolfax**.

12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Goodall. The weather prospects come from Jim Barker. 12.57 **Regional News** (London and SE only). **Regional** report followed by news headlines with subtitles.

1.00 **Pebbles** at One. A group of schoolchildren in the final of the Christmas Carol Competition. The celebrity panel of judges is chaired by Peter Skellern. 1.45 **Holly** Colley. A See-Saw programme for the very young.

2.00 **On the Farm**. Lambing time at Harlow Hall, a Lakeland farm.

2.25 **File: The Affairs of Annette** (1938) starring Lucie Ball and Jackie Odell. Comedy about a scatterbrained actress completely under the control of her ruthless agent. Directed by Ben Stiller. 3.30 **Cartoon** Double Bill. 3.45 **Regional** news (not London).

3.50 **Play School**, presented by Ben Thomas. 4.10 **Dearest** and **Madly** (p. 4.20). **Dearest**, Michael Barrymore reads part two of *The Land of Green Ginger*. 4.35 **Cartoon**. 4.45 **Go On** with Ben Thomas. The last in the series designed for those who are to teacher's parents.

5.00 **John Craven's Newsround**. 5.10 **Star Trek**. One of Captain Kirk's men is swept through space to times past where he retrieves the future (p. 5.58). **Weather**.

6.00 **News**.

6.30 **London Plus**.

6.55 **The District Nurse**. A schoolboy's football game ends in disaster and Megan and John Price combine to form a rescue team (*Coolfax*).

7.25 **Halls of Fame**. A salute to variety, introduced by Roy Hudd from the Empire Theatre, Sunderland. Among those on the bill are Alan Price, Frankie Vaughan, Noele Gordon and Bob and Alf Pearson.

8.10 **Cagney and Lacey**. Another case for the two vociferous ladies of the New York Police Force.

9.00 **News** with John Humphrys.

9.25 **Play: More Lives Than One**, by John Peacock. A drama about a middle-aged London builder, married with two sons, who has difficulty coming to terms with his homosexuality. Starring Michael N. Harbour and Elspeth Chilton (see Choice).

10.45 **The Other Half**. John Pinner explores the relationship between former Playboy Club boys, Victor Lowman, and his companion for many years, Marilyn Cole (p. 7).

11.15 **Clare Rayner's Casebook**. The problem page lady talks to housewives.

11.40 **Late Night in Concert**. Elkie Brooks at the New Theatre, Hull.

12.05 **Weather**.

On Saturday: Your complete guide to films on television during Christmas week

TV-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with *Bayne Irving* at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; sport at 6.30 and 7.30; exercises at 6.40 and 8.30; the day's anniversaries at 6.55; pop at 7.54; children's choir at 8.25; video report at 8.34; *Russell's Christmas* cooking at 9.05.

TV LONDON

8.25 **Thames news** headlines followed by *Susanne Street* 10.25. The *Westies* (p. 10.30). **Hold Tight** with Bob Carole and Sue Robjohns. Inter-school quiz and pop music from *Savage Progress* and *Key-Kurt*.

10.30 **Time to Travel**. John Hurdley takes a journey back in time to find out what life was like for our ancestors. 11.10 **On Safari** with Christopher Boggins. 11.30 **Recess**.

12.00 **Thames** the *Tank Engine* and *Friends*. *Ringo Starr* with more tales from the pen of the Rev. *Audrey*. 12.10 **Rainbow**. Learning with puppets (p. 12.30). **The Shipmates**.

1.00 **News** at One. Includes Mr. Tabbitt's first television interview with the Brighton bombing (repeated in today's other TV news bulletins). 1.20 **Thames news**.

1.30 **Thames** the *Tank Engine* and *Friends*. A Great shipping milestone (p. 1.30). **Daytime**. Sarah Kennedy chairs a studio discussion on a matter of topical importance. 3.00 **University Challenge**. The second semi-final. *Isabel Henderson*, London (west). The University of St. Andrews. 3.25 **Thames news** headlines. 3.30 **The Young Doctors**.

4.30 **Thames** the *Tank Engine* and *Friends*. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 **Will Come Cuckoo**. Adventures of a naughty duck. 4.20 **How Dore** with presented by Carrie Gray and Cheryl Baker. 4.45 **Cartoon**. 4.55 **Cartoon**. 5.00 **Cartoon**. 5.15 **Cartoon**. 5.25 **Cartoon**. 5.30 **Cartoon**. 5.45 **Cartoon**. 5.55 **Cartoon**. 6.00 **Cartoon**. 6.15 **Cartoon**. 6.25 **Cartoon**. 6.30 **Cartoon**. 6.45 **Cartoon**. 6.55 **Cartoon**. 7.00 **Cartoon**. 7.15 **Cartoon**. 7.25 **Cartoon**. 7.30 **Cartoon**. 7.45 **Cartoon**. 7.55 **Cartoon**. 8.00 **Cartoon**. 8.15 **Cartoon**. 8.25 **Cartoon**. 8.30 **Cartoon**. 8.45 **Cartoon**. 8.55 **Cartoon**. 9.00 **Cartoon**. 9.15 **Cartoon**. 9.25 **Cartoon**. 9.30 **Cartoon**. 9.45 **Cartoon**. 9.55 **Cartoon**. 10.00 **Cartoon**. 10.15 **Cartoon**. 10.25 **Cartoon**. 10.30 **Cartoon**. 10.45 **Cartoon**. 10.55 **Cartoon**. 11.00 **Cartoon**. 11.15 **Cartoon**. 11.25 **Cartoon**. 11.30 **Cartoon**. 11.45 **Cartoon**. 11.55 **Cartoon**. 12.00 **Cartoon**. 12.15 **Cartoon**. 12.25 **Cartoon**. 12.30 **Cartoon**. 12.45 **Cartoon**. 12.55 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Rebuke for MP over IRA visit

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

Mr Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington, North, was reprimanded by the Labour chief whip yesterday for arranging a Commons visit for two convicted terrorists - but then said he would be prepared to do the same again.

Mr Corbyn was told by Mr Michael Cocks during a 3-minute meeting and that the timing and location of the visit by Lindsay Quigley and Gerald McLoughlin, less than two weeks after the Brighton bombing, was unfortunate.

MPs had jealously guarded rights, but those rights also carried responsibilities, to their constituents, the general public and their fellow MPs.

He said before the meeting: "I shall be telling Mr Corbyn that whatever the purpose of this visit in the present climate of opinion this action must be regarded as thoughtlessness of the highest order."

"It is particularly unfortunate, I shall say to him, that all this publicity has broken on the anniversary of the dreadful Harrods outrage."

But Mr Corbyn emerged unrepentant. "I made it clear to Mr Cocks that I believe any MP who wishes to meet people who have points of view to raise from anywhere must have the right and freedom to do that, and that I would, in those circumstances, be prepared to meet them again," he said.

His response showed the limits of the chief whip's powers in dealing with any backbencher he considers to be out of line: a frontbencher can at least be relieved of his post. Short of withdrawing the Labour whip from Mr Corbyn - which some Conservative MPs were demanding yesterday - Mr Cocks can only exhort. Denial of the whip would not prevent an MP from bringing guests to the Commons.

Mr Corbyn said the two ex-prisoners had come to the Commons to raise the issue of strip searches. During the last two months Linda Quigley had discussed the issue with about 20 MPs.

Mr John Hume, MP, confirmed last night that he briefly met Ms Quigley and Mr McLoughlin in the Commons, but knew nothing about their previous history.

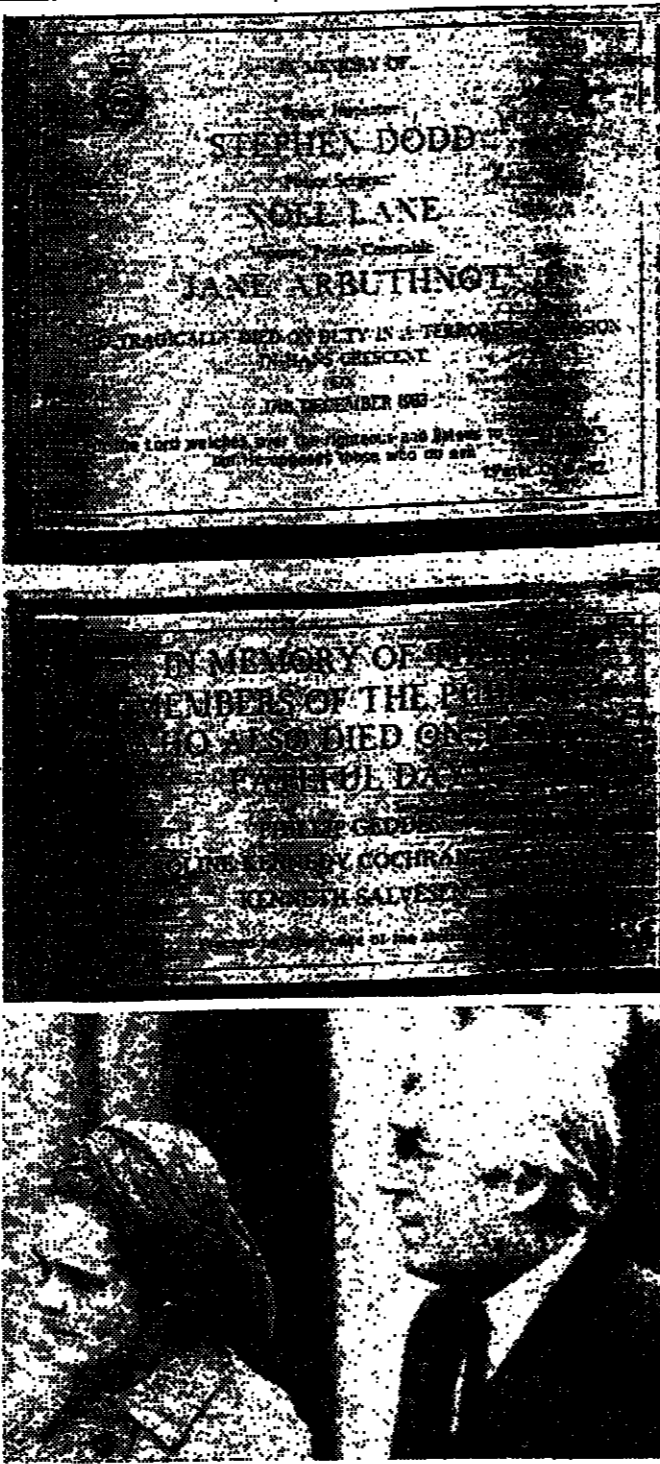


In memoriam: Police Constable John Gordon (above), who lost both his legs and part of a hand in the Harrods bombing which killed six people a year ago, arriving at a memorial service for the victims at St Luke's Church, Chelsea, London.

The parents (right) of William Police Constable John Arbutnot, who died in the explosion, also attended the service, with 500 others including Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and Mr Denis Thatcher.

After the church service, Sir Kenneth unveiled a plaque at Chelsea police station (above right) commemorating those who died.

Photographs: Chris Harris and Bill Warhurst



Flight to certain death from Ethiopia to Sudan

Continued from page 1

wood in the shape of a crucifix, smothered in dirty blankets, those suffering from dysentery and malaria are laid on the ground under a torn canvas roof. The few doctors there fear that hundreds of children could die in the coming weeks if the measles epidemic is not stamped out.

Many of those walking out with the first signs of malnutrition but they are not starving, mainly because the Tigre People's Liberation Front, the guerrilla army that controls the Province

of Tigre from which almost all the famine victims have come, is sending 14 lorry-loads of food into rebel-held Ethiopia every day.

In two's and three's, the refugees appear through the early heat haze, the dust rising around them. Behind them are the desolate hills of Tigre, divided up according to their villages, a column of misery and exhaustion led by priests holding heavy wooden crosses.

If there is something almost indescribably haunting about this panorama, however, there is also something desperate about the sheer inadequacy of the help being offered them in

Sudan. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, in theory the supreme coordinating body for refugee assistance, is being accused privately by aid workers of underestimating the tragedy, setting up facilities last month for only 50,000 people rather than the 750,000 that may soon be outside Kassala.

A convoy of 13 UNHCR lorries freighted just over 400 refugees to Sudanese settlements on Saturday but with 3,000 more victims arriving every day, these efforts are almost negligible.

There is no shortage of consultants from international aid organizations - at least one

Arts buying power cut by £1.2m

Continued from page 1

In return, the museums and galleries lose £1.2 million, nearly 13 per cent, from their purchase grants, and funds for the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the level of acceptance of arts works against tax are being frozen at their existing levels.

Sir Michael Levy, the director of the National Gallery, said "I am appalled and gravely disturbed by the implications of the minister's decision which can do nothing but restrict the National Gallery's activities and services to the public."

"The total purchase grant which has to last into 1986 no longer represents the open market valuation of just one Old Master. A cut of such magnitude is unprecedented in recent years."

Sir David Wilson, director of the British Museum, said: "We are taken aback by this figure which represents a reduction of some 15 per cent when we had asked for an increase of 25 per cent. We feel it is very sad in the present circumstances when so many things are appearing on the market, some of which are heritage items that we cannot meet our obligations."

In the museums and galleries field, Lord Gowrie said that he faced a choice between acquisition and the conservation of existing displays. He hoped that purchase grants could be restored "bit by bit" in future years, and he was also working on a tax arrangement which would attempt to persuade people to keep works of art instead of putting them on the market. But Lord Gowrie ruled out any tightening of export rules to account for the increasing inability of British institutions to bid for works of art in competition with foreign buyers.

Letter from Rothenburg

Fairyland citadel, frozen in time

Any child would believe the town really does live in one of the fifteenth century gabled houses on the market square. No wonder the makers of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* chose this quaint medieval town for their make-believe kingdom: the former imperial city in the rich farmland of Bavaria seems hardly changed since the turbulent days of the Thirty Years War when its mighty fortifications were no match for the besieging Catholic army.

Rothenburg is a natural film set, one of the most perfectly preserved jewels of medieval architecture, which by a miracle escaped the destruction which levelled other mightier cities. Never does this jewel shimmer with such sparkle as in the frosty three weeks before Christmas, when the jingle of horse-drawn carriages along the twisted, cobbled streets is matched by the jangle in the air of tourists come from all over the world to throw the open-air Christmas fair, watch the lantern-lit processions and listen to the wassailing in the soaring Gothic churches.

With 6,000 inhabitants in the fifteenth century, Rothenburg was a rich and influential trading centre, whose wealthy citizens built fine monuments to their piety and prosperity. Perhaps it was the walls which kept it safe, huge stone bulwarks entirely surrounded it, still allowing access only over drawbridges under portcullises and through stout wooden gates.

Many was the time when marauding enemies laid waste everything outside. Twice the town was saved from almost certain obliteration: once in 1631, when the Catholic forces laid siege to what was then a Protestant stronghold in the bitter Thirty Years War. When Rothenburg finally fell, the Catholic commander offered to spare it if any councillor could be found to drink seven pints of local wine from a huge tankard at one draught. One George Nusch, with a prodigious capacity for liquor, came forward and downed the lot. His legendary "master drink" has been performed as a Whitsuntide pageant every year since 1881.

The other man honoured in the town's memory is John McCloy, an American Assistant Secretary of War in 1943. As the allied forces swept into

Bavaria, the Americans were ready to smash into the city, held by the SS. John McCloy had been there and knew it had to be saved for posterity. He negotiated a surrender.

Americans, many from military bases, near by are among the Christmas shoppers created in the thriving shops which hide behind the fifteenth century facades. In the fairland of festive glitter and glass, overpriced Christmas angels and traditional baubles are scooped up by the basketful.

Tourists seeking more spiritual inspiration flock to St Jacob's Church to gaze at the exquisite wooden altar by Tilman Riemenschneider, Germany's great medieval master carver.

Rothenburg really experienced its heyday around 1400, and since the seventeenth century has been of no economic importance. This is why the entire walled centre has remained frozen in time, free of modern buildings to jar against the beauty of the wooden beamed houses, the galleried courtyards and ancient stone towers - floodlit, of course, for the winter season.

Let anyone think that life was idyllic in the old days, the town has a unique and chilling museum of crime and medieval punishment. On display here are the iron band clamps for gossips, ducking stools to half drown suspected witches, thumb screws, instruments for plucking out eyes and tongues, and all those fearsome tools of repression of yesteryear.

Things are kinder now. The past Rothenburg seeks to conjure up is one of beauty and serenity. Christmas concerns and serenades, children's theatres, torchlight processions and re-enactments of inspections by ancient watchmen. No expense has been spared to restore every building to a better than original state.

A motorway brings the Mercedes and Audis, the sleek transport of today's visitors, almost up to the walls and turrets which have stood here since 1300. Too much of Germany has been destroyed, particularly in the apocalypse of the Second World War. What remains is cherished with special pride.

Michael Binyon

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

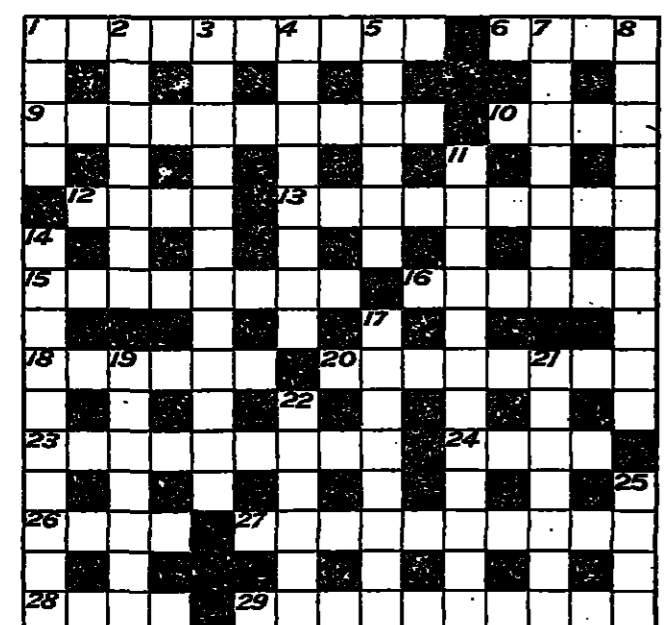
Royal engagements

The Queen visits the RIBA's exhibition "The Art of the Architect". Treasures from the Royal Institute of British Architects' Collection, 66 Portland Place, to mark their Sesquicentenary, 3. The Prince of Wales opens a

manufacturing plant of Wang (UK), Hillfields Rd, Stirling, 10.15; and later, as President, the Royal Jubilee and Prince's Trusts, visits the premises of recipients of Youth Business Initiative bursaries, arriving in Glasgow, 2.10; and later, attends a concert by Spandau Ballet, Inglestone Hall, Edinburgh, 7.15. The Duchess of Kent, as patron, attends the 'Not Forgotten' Association's Christmas party, Royal Mess, Buckingham Palace, 3. The Duke and Duchess of Kent attend a Christmas celebration, Westminster Cathedral, 7.

New Exhibitions
Sculpture by Hebe Cornerford: Bolton Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, closed Weds and Sun; (ends Jan 19).
Contemporary Art by The Society of Scottish Artists, Collins Gallery, Strathclyde University, 22 Richmond St, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 12 to 4; (ends Jan 8).
Elements of Nature: pictures of earth, air and water; Elizabethan Exhibition Gallery, Brook St, Wakefield; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5; (ends Dec 22).
Engravings and lithographs by Walter Francis Tiffin, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, The King's House, 63 The Close, Salisbury; Mon to Sat 10 to 4; (ends Mar 2).
Photographs by Annie Leibovitz: Stills Gallery, 105 High St, Edinburgh; Tues to Sat 12.30 to 6; (ends Jan 19).
Paintings by Helen Pollock: MacLaurin's, 200 High St, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 11 to 5; (ends Dec 21).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,614



ACROSS

- 1 Slightly mistimed call after break in fighting (7,3).
- 6 Promise there from the beginning, said St John (4).
- 9 Remove all trace of the sort of rite a religious goes about (10).
- 10 One may be running round garden, laughing (2,2).
- 12 Antipodean type of fruit plant (4).
- 13 Lively as third part of Holst's suite (9).
- 15 Receiver of property possibly seen gain in it (8).
- 16 Something tediously familiar for veteran bowler, perhaps (3,3).
- 18 Escort arranged for part of front (6).
- 20 Expert marksmanship of a certain kind (4-4).
- 23 Village of Gotham, or London borough (9).
- 24 Something that'll do for head, and point (4).
- 26 Alternate courses for food (4).
- 27 Firmness of purpose - seen in decision (10).
- 28 Indeed, a table contains these (4).
- 29 How far does new order indicate what's ahead? (10).

DOWN

- 1 Arrest for completion of sentence, perhaps (4).
- 2 Writer Jane gave orders to (7).

● This year's Prize Jumbo Crossword with a £50 prize for the first five correct solutions and The Times Quiz - 108 taxing questions and a £250 first prize - will appear on Saturday, December 22; readers are advised to order The Times to ensure receiving a copy.

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

Exhibitions in progress

Archives for the Future: Stafford Art Gallery, The Green; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4; (ends Jan 19).
Contemporary Art by The Society of Scottish Artists, Collins Gallery, Strathclyde University, 22 Richmond St, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 12 to 4; (ends Jan 8).
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Last chance to see

Fur and Feather: Wildlife paintings, etchings, engraved glass and ceramic sculpture; Yew Tree Gallery, The Square, Elmstead, Ashbourne, Derbyshire; 10 to 6.

Christmas music

Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra: The Guildhall, Southampton, 8.
Concert by the St David's Metropolitan Cathedral Choir, 10.15; and concert by the Orchestra and Chorus of the Welsh National Opera, 7.30; St David's Hall, Cardiff.
Handel's *Messiah* by the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and City of Birmingham Choir: Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.
Christmas concert by the Northern Chamber Orchestra and Orana Choir: St George's Church, High St, Macclesfield, 7.30.
Carol Service by St Michael's Barnfold Church of England Primary School, St Michael's Church, Heywood, Lancs, 7.
Christmas concert with Harworth Organ Enthusiasts, Harworth Social Welfare Hall, Whitehouse Rd, Bircotes, Doncaster, 7.30.
Carol concert with the Norwich Cathedral Choir: St Andrew's Hall, Norwich, 7.30.

Channel trips

Shoppers returning from cross-channel trips are reminded that they must declare any meat that they have bought abroad to Customs by going through the "red" channel. This applies to all meat products, including bacon, ham, sausages, salami and pate. The restrictions have been imposed because of the risk that serious animal diseases can be introduced through imported animal products. No meat or meat products can be brought back from Spain, Portugal and most of Africa, and no uncooked meat can be brought in from Greece.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending December 9

- 1 Coronation Street (Wed), Granada, 12.55m
- 2 Coronation Street (Mon), Granada, 18.50m
- 3 Name That Tune (Sat), Thames, 18.50m
- 4 The Benny Hill Show, Thames, 14.55m
- 5 The A Team, ITV, 14.70m
- 6 Terry and Francis, LWT, 14.55m
- 7 The Saturday Night Takeaway, LWT, 14.55m
- 8 The Saturday Night Takeaway, LWT, 14.55m
- 9 The Saturday Night Takeaway, LWT, 14.55m
- 10 The Saturday Night Takeaway, LWT, 14.55m

Channel 4
1 The Mavis Bramson Case, 6.55m
2 The Mavis Bramson Case, 6.55m
3 The Mavis Bramson Case, 6.55m
4 The Mavis Bramson Case, 6.55m
5 The Mavis Bramson Case, 6.55m
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8 The Mavis Bramson Case, 6.55m
9 The Mavis Bramson Case, 6.55m
10 The Mavis Bramson Case, 6.55m

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Estimates on industrial support.
Lords (2.30): Bankruptcy (Scotland) Bill, third reading. Elections (Northern Ireland) Bill, second reading.

Anniversaries

Births: Sir Joseph Thomson, physicist, Nobel laureate, 1906; Manchester, 1856; Francis Thompson, poet, author of *The Hound of Heaven*, 1859; Paul Klee, painter of abstracts, Mudenbuch, Switzerland, 1879.
Deaths: Antonio Stradivari, violin maker, Cremona (7), 1737; Jean Baptiste de Lamarck, biologist, Paris, 1829.

The pound

	Bank	Spot	3m	6m	12m
Australia	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Canada	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Denmark	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
France	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Germany	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Italy	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Japan	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Netherlands	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Portugal	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Spain	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Sweden	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Switzerland	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
USA	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Yugoslavia	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45

Roads

The North A1: Roadworks on Seven Mile House Bridge, NW of Seaton, Burn, Northumberland. A688: Roadworks on Bishop Auckland bypass N of the junction with the A6072, M62: Resurfacing of hard shoulder between junctions 24 and 26 (Brighouse to Bradford stretch) on E and westbound carriageways; some delay.

Wales and West A39: Roadworks from Barnstaple to Bideford on North Rd, Pilton; also surfacing work at Abbotsham Cross. A494: Temporary lights during working hours on the Doglass to Bais Rd on the stretch between Doglass and Rhydyman, M4: Only one lane of westbound carriageway open between junction 17 (Cirencester/Chippenham) and 18 (A46 Bath/Stroud).

Scotland A68: Roadworks N of Perth, Midlothian A78 (A742): Roadworks at 18M, between Greencrook and Iwerip; eastbound carriageway closed; two-way on westbound. A74: Telecom work of 6740 junction at Crawfordjohn; westbound inside lane closed, 24m. Information supplied by the AA.

The papers

The Daily Mirror says: "The girl which Colin Evans did to Marie Payne is beyond description. The negligence which made it possible is beyond forgiveness." The paper adds: "That a man with such an obscene record of sexual assaults upon children could become a child minder is incredible. That he would end up as a child murderer now looks like a foregone conclusion."

The Daily Star also commenting on the murder of Marie Payne, says: "The Home Office and Scotland Yard must find ways of ensuring that the records of all sex offenders can be consistently available to all local police forces and social services departments. And local councils must make sure that all their staff act on the information - by backing those who don't."

Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play
Monday-Thursday record your daily Portfolio
Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio score
If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week and must claim your prize by instructed below.

How to claim
Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 025-68872 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm on the day your Portfolio closes. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.
You must have your card with you when you telephone.
If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm.
No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.
The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.
Some Times Portfolio cards include minor alterations to the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.
The winning of Rules 2 and 3 has been delayed from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Games Board is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Weather forecast

A trough of low pressure will cross the British Isles from the W.

6am to midnight

London, SE, Central S, E England, East Angles, Midlands: Sunny periods at first, scattered showers developing, wind SW to W moderate; max temp 7C (45F).
Channel Islands, SW, NW England, Wales, Lake & North or sunny intervals, occasional showers, windy on hills; wind SW becoming W fresh; max temp 7C (45F).
Lake District, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands: Bright or sunny intervals, occasional light showers, perhaps heavy, becoming cloudy later; wind SW to W fresh or strong; max temp 7C (45F).
Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray, Perth, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny periods at first, scattered light showers developing, wind SW to W moderate; max temp 7C (45F).
Argyll, NW Scotland, Northern Ireland: Bright intervals, occasional light showers, perhaps heavy, becoming cloudy with rain later; wind SW to W fresh or strong; max temp 7C (45F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Cloudy weather with occasional rain spreading from the W to most districts tomorrow; becoming mild or very mild in the S.
SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind W backing SW fresh or strong; showers, visibility good; sea moderate or rough. English Channel, Celtic Sea, Bristol Channel, North Sea, Irish Sea, Atlantic: Wind SW to W fresh or strong; showers, visibility good; sea moderate or rough. S. English Channel, Celtic Sea, Bristol Channel, North Sea, Irish Sea, Atlantic: Wind SW to W fresh or strong; showers, visibility good; sea moderate or rough.

Lighting-up time

London 4.22 pm to 7.23 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.42 am
Edinburgh 4.38 pm to 8.11 am
Manchester 4.50 pm to 7.45 am
Penzance 4.51 pm to 7.48 am

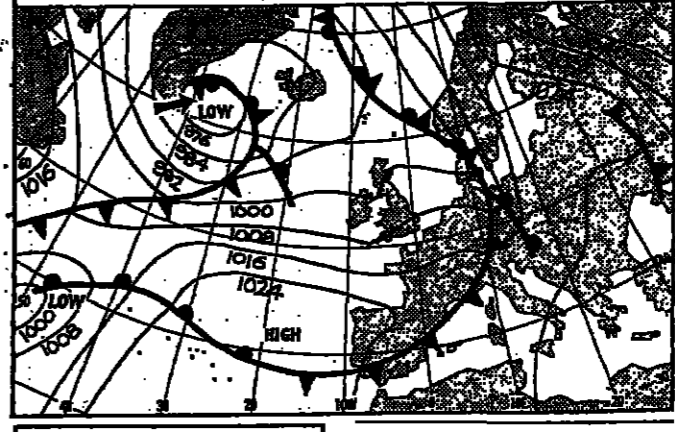
Yesterday

	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Humid	Pres
Belfast	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Birmingham	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Bristol	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Cardiff	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Edinburgh	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Exeter	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Glasgow	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
London	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Manchester	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Newcastle	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Nottingham	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Sheffield	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Southampton	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Stirling	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Swansea	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Torquay	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Wolverhampton	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Wrexham	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0

Highest and lowest

Yesterday's Highest and lowest: London, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Birmingham, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Bristol, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Cardiff, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Edinburgh, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Exeter, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Glasgow, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
London, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Manchester, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Newcastle, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Nottingham, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Sheffield, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Southampton, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Stirling, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Swansea, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Torquay, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Wolverhampton, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).
Wrexham, 11C (52F); lowest, 6C (43F); highest, 18C (64F).

NOON TODAY Pressure in millibars. FRONTS: Warm, Cold, Occluded. Symbols are an advancing edge.



High tides

b-blue sky; b-blue sky land cloud; c-cloudy; c-d cloudy; l-lazy; d-d drizzle; b-bk-bk mist; n-n mist; s-snow; m-m thunderstorm; p-p showers; a-arrows show wind direction; wind speed (mph) circled; temperature

TODAY

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9.25	6.10	10.25	6.10
Avonmouth	2.54	11.2	3.24	11.6
Cardiff	2.39	10.4	3.09	10.8
Newport	1.27	4.8	2.57	5.8
Falmouth	12.57	4.8	1.22	4.8
Glasgow	6.09	4.3	8.09	4.3
Edinburgh	7.21	3.4	8.21	3.4
London	6.39	4.9	6.48	5.2
Manchester	1.41	5.9	2.44	6.4
Hythe	1.34	7.8	2.12	8.0
Leith	10.48	5.0	11.08	5.2
Liverpool	2.03	7.5	2.53	7.8
Leweston	1.55	2.3	6.05	2.2
Margate	7.38	4.4	5.34	4.4
London	6.39	4.9	6.48	5.2
Newbury	1.01	5.5	1.28	6.2
Oxford	1.01	5.5	1.28	6.2
Perth	1.01	5.5	1.28	6.2
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